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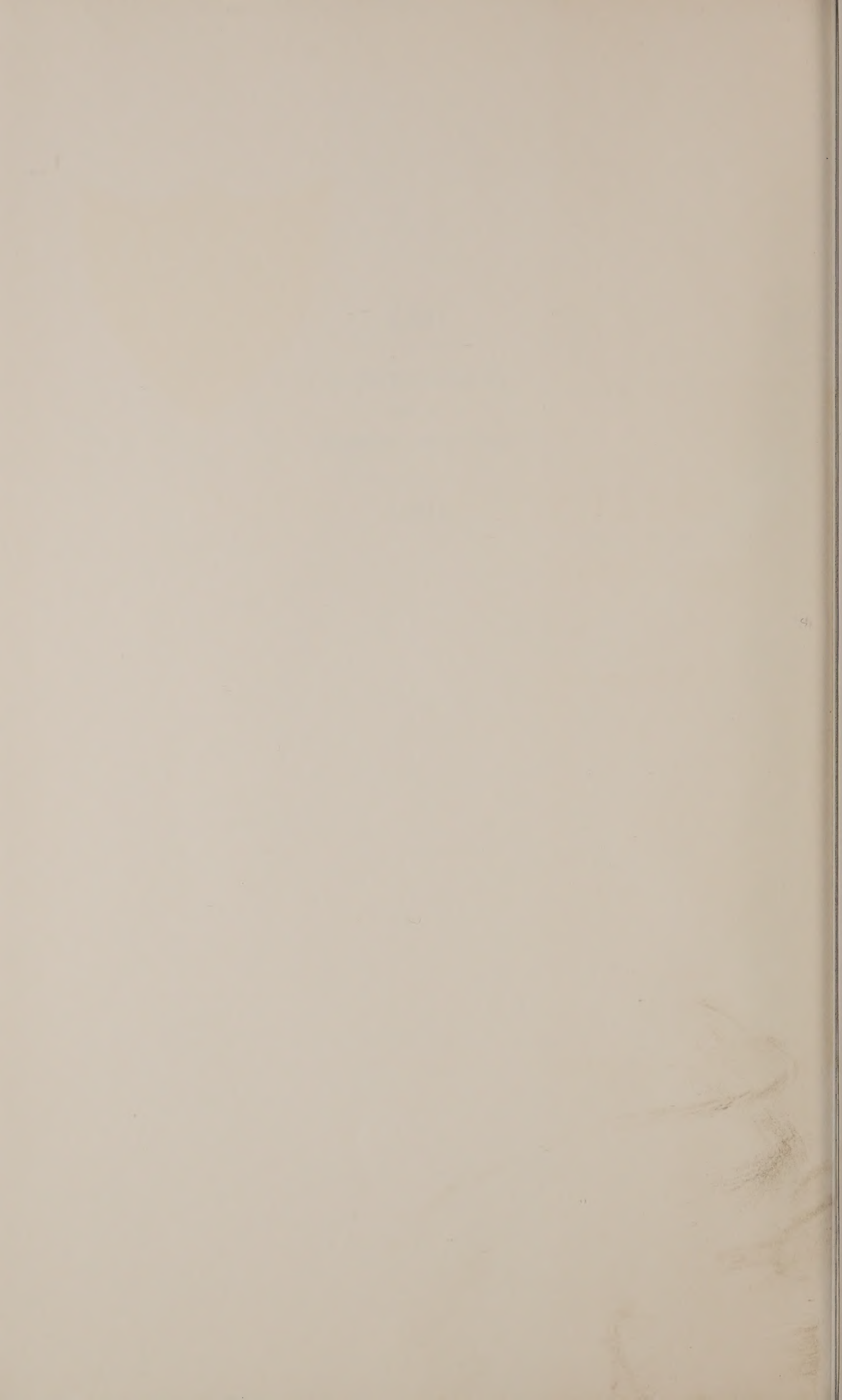
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1862

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF THE
DANIA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

1962





THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY

1862-1962

by H. EINAR MOSE

PRIVATELY PRINTED • CHICAGO • 1962



THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY

1803-1903

OF THE

STATE OF TEXAS

To
THE MEMBERS OF DANIA SOCIETY
PAST AND PRESENT
WHO HAVE SERVED AND SUPPORTED
THE SOCIETY
DURING
ITS FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Recognition

Dania Society is indebted to the following persons, who have made the creation and production of this book possible.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Einar Mose
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Jensen

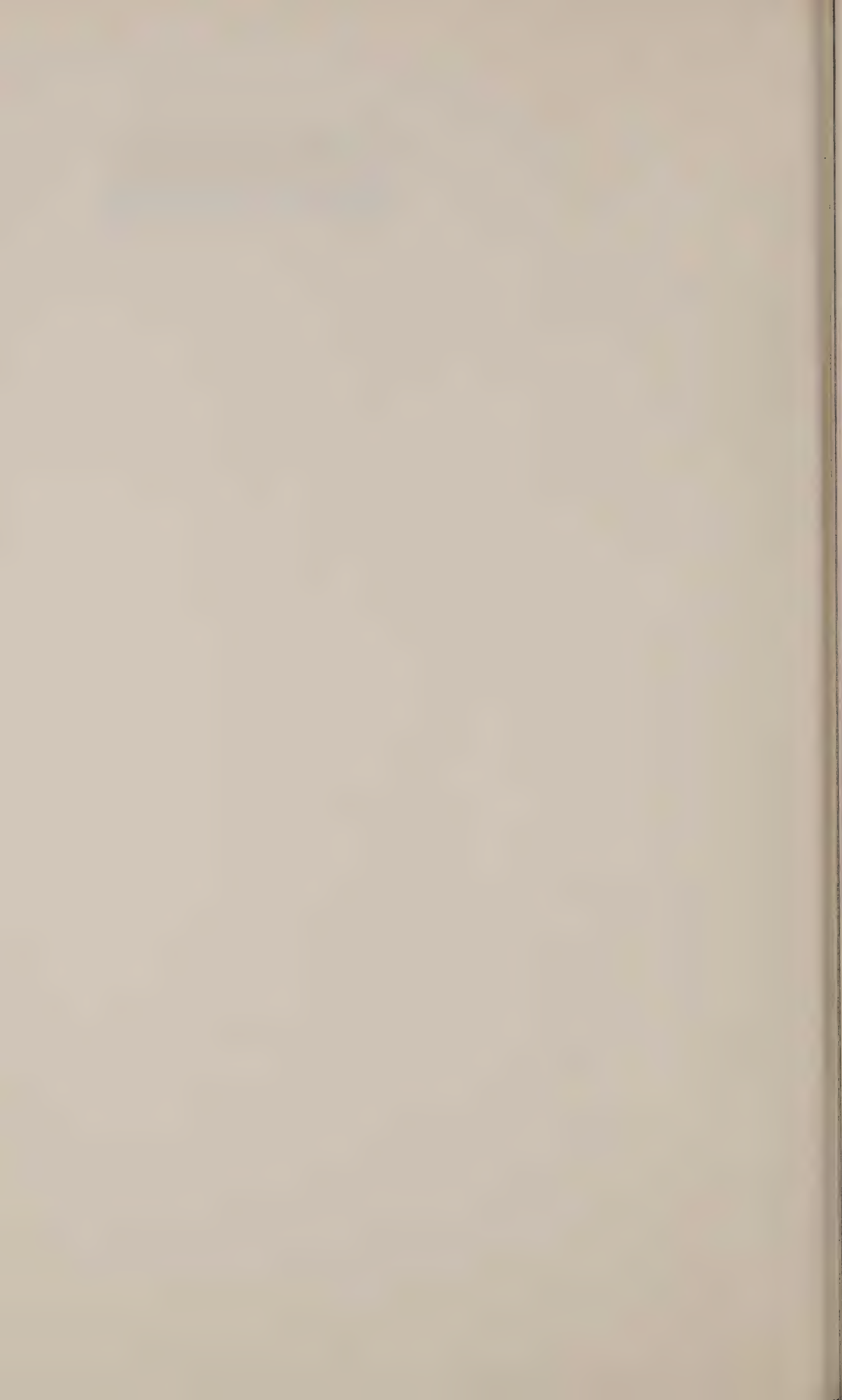
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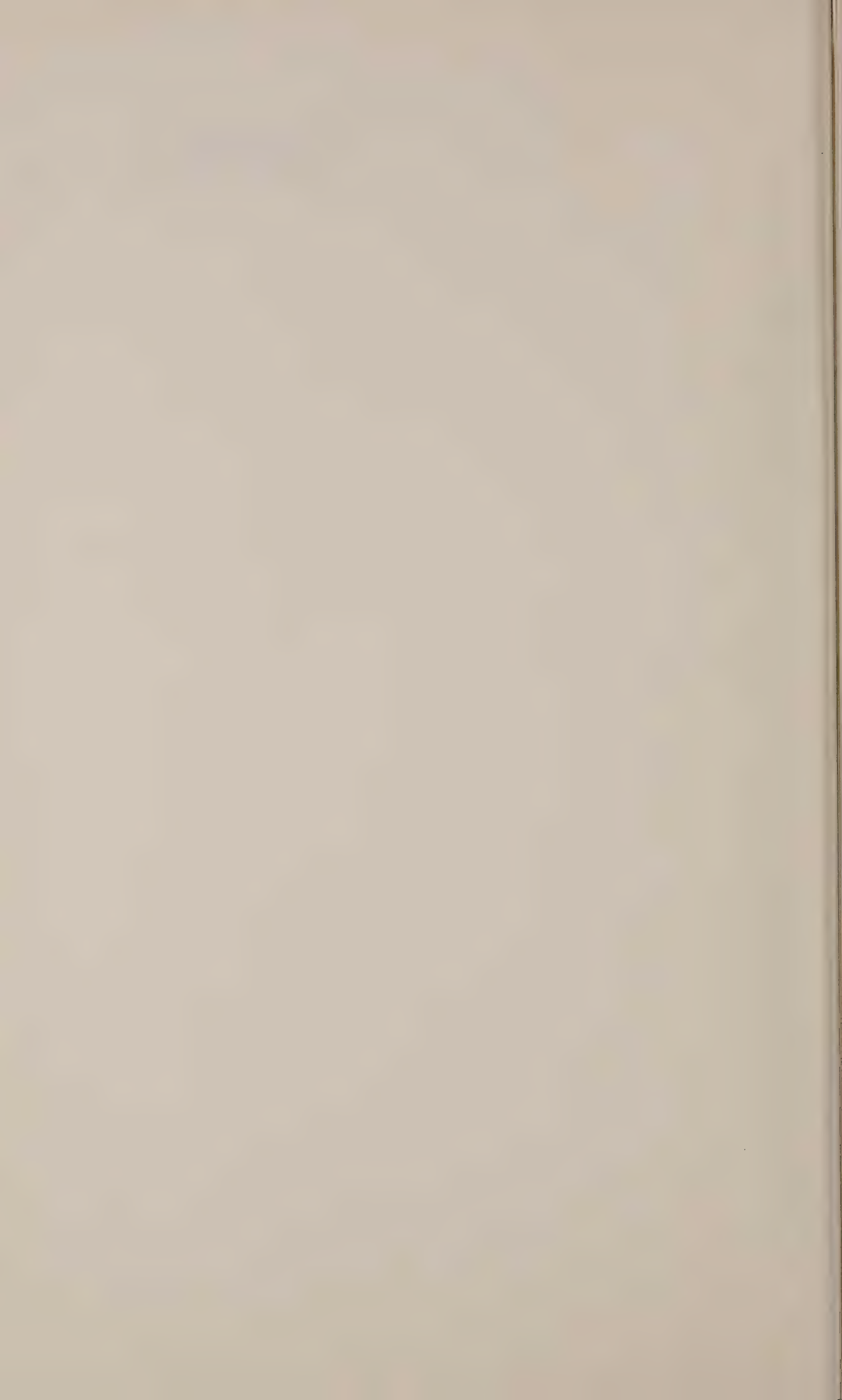
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 THEODOR MARTINS 1863
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 WILLIAM LEFFLAND 1866
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 JOHN KLUG 1867
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 HENRY L. HERTZ 1880-1881
 FRITZ FRANZEN 1882
 RASMUS JENSEN 1883
 MAJOR ALSTRUP 1884
 RASMUS JENSEN 1885
 OLAF RICHEL 1885
 M. F. LARSEN 1886
 C. CHRISTIANSEN 1887
 HENRY OCKENHOLT 1887-1888
 R. M. FENSHOLT 1889
 OLE OLSEN 1890
 HENRY OCKENHOLT 1891-1893
 CARL C. JENSEN 1894
 JOHN W. HERTZ 1895
 PEDER KRISTENSEN 1896-1897
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 PETER MIKKELSEN 1900
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 CARL NIELSEN 1901
 HENRY OCKENHOLT 1902-1903
 PEDER KRISTENSEN 1903
 ROBERT PETERSEN 1904
 CHARLES J. RYBERG 1905-1907
 ADOLPH CHRISTENSEN 1908
 EMIL JORGENSEN 1909
 JENS C. HANSEN 1909-1910
 ED. HALKJER 1911
 PEDER KRISTENSEN 1912-1914

JOSEPH JENSEN 1915
 ANDREW J. NIELSEN 1916
 JOHN C. CHRISTENSEN 1917-1918
 CHRISTIAN NIELSEN 1919
 FRITZ FRANTZEN 1920
 PEDER KRISTENSEN 1920
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 CHARLES DITLEFSEN 1922
 J. CHRIST JORGENSEN 1922-1923
 P. C. PETERSEN 1923-1924
 ADOLPH NIELSEN 1924-1925
 C. M. CHRISTIANSEN 1926
 ALFRED PAULSEN 1927
 HANS CHR. ERICKSEN 1928
 GEORGE P. JENSEN 1929-1930
 JENS AGGER 1931
 PAUL J. WESTER 1932
 J. CHRIST JORGENSEN 1933
 AXEL M. ANDERSEN 1934-1935
 DR. EMANUEL NIELSEN 1936
 HANS CHR. ERICKSEN 1937-1938
 A. K. MOSE 1939
 SOREN SORENSEN 1940-1941
 MARIUS KROGH 1942
 ANDREW S. KARKOW 1943
 ALBERT W. CLAUSEN 1944-1945
 EINAR K. CHRISTIANSEN 1946-1947
 M. BEJER LASSEN 1948
 ANKER W. JENSEN 1949
 OLE PETERSEN 1950
 MAX H. PEDERSEN 1951
 GEORGE UGILT 1952-1953
 ERNEST STARK 1954
 OSCAR TERP 1955-1956
 NIELS A. HOLMEN 1957-1958
 CARL M. HANSEN 1959
 HAROLD TERP 1960
 JOHN M. PETERSEN 1961-1962



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This centennial history of the oldest Danish society in America has been both an easy and difficult one to write. It has been easy in the sense that almost all the material contained in this history has either been extracted from the published writings of several former Dania members or has been culled from the official records and protocols which the various Dania secretaries have written. It has been difficult in that all of the original records from 1862 to 1921 are no longer in existence, as is the case with many of the manuscripts pertaining to Dania's early history. This writer has no first hand knowledge of the train of events in Dania, as he only as recently as April '62 became a Dania member. It is undoubtedly the first time that a neophyte-member has had the effrontery to attempt such an awesome task. I hope that my fellow Dania members will consider the above mentioned limitations and accept this centennial history as a sincere effort to portray the first one hundred years of the Dania Society of Chicago.

The various published authoritative writings about Dania which have been of inestimable value to this writer are as follows: "*Amerika's Danske Pioneer-Forening Dania, Chicago, 1862-1930 -Fra Lincoln til Hoover: Et Bidrag til Dania's Historie*," (Politikens Hus, København, 1930) by Anton Kvist; "*Brogede Minder fra Fyrretyve Aars Ophold i Chicago*," (Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag, København, 1913) by Morris Salmonsens. With the kind permission of Anton Kvist and Miss Ella M. Salmonsens, these sources have frequently been quoted verbatim in this centennial history.

The unpublished manuscripts which are still available that have also been used extensively are: "*Society Dania's Mindevaerdige Erindringer, et Autoriseret Uddrag af Protokollerne fra 1885 til 1935 -Samlede og Tilegnede Foreningen*," by Charles L. Wilde; "*Dania's Historie 1935-1952*," by Axel M. Andersen; and "*En Fortsaettelse af Foreningen Dania's Historie*," by Anton Kvist. Also referred to were: Professor P. S. Vig's "*Danske i Amerika*" Vol. 1; "*Max Henius—A Biography Published by the Max Henius Memoir Committee*"; Poul Hoff Kunst's "*Dania's 75 Aar. Korte Traek af Foreningens Historie*" (1937 Dania Jubilee Book); Axel M. Andersen's "*Dania -90 Years*" (1952 Anniversary Program); and Anton Kvist's series of articles, "*Mindeblade af Dana og Dania's Bog*," which appeared in the November and December 1937 issues of the "*Danish Times*." My thanks to the many people who made these manuscripts and documents available to me.

It is inevitable that a history such as this will not provide a totally accurate or complete account of Dania's activities during the past one hundred years. It can only be as defect-free and exhaustive as the source materials used, and it should be pointed out that the various writings on Dania which have been referred to have frequently conflicted with one another as to dates, names, spelling, and opinions. Where such conflicts and contradictions have occurred, I have selected and used that data which seemed most logical and cogent. This centennial history may inadvertently emphasize the unimportant, de-emphasize the important, or even omit some personages and events which are significant to Dania's history. Any omissions or distortions of fact, if they do occur, are unintentional and perhaps even unavoidable under the circumstances.

Men make up an organization such as Dania Society, and the history of Dania can not merely be a chronicle of events which have taken place but must also be an account of those men who made Dania what it is today. In this history, therefore, an attempt has been made to give the reader not only a recital of Dania's functions and activities throughout its 100 year existence, but also to describe, where biographical material is available, the many important and colorful members who have helped perpetuate the Society for a full century.

Dania's history is probably best presented in a general chronological sequence which does not necessarily demand strict adherence to the exact order of time. Wherever possible the Dania epic is presented as it unraveled, but no attempt has been made to fracture the biographical sketches into the many different time periods which would have been necessary in a strictly chronological procedure. It is the flow of Dania's history which I have tried to present, not a blow by blow account.

This centennial history of Dania would not have been possible but for the help and cooperation of many people. Various members and officers of Dania have given me their invaluable assistance, and several wives of former members have lent me source material for which I am most grateful. Finally, I am indebted to my son, Donald E. Mose, for his editing and typing of my manuscript.

Dania's history is a rich one, and in many of its stages, a fascinating one. My hope is that the readers of this centennial history of Dania will also find it so.

H. E. M.

1862

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY
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1962

CHAPTER I

1862-1872

The history of Dania Society is essentially immigrant history, and is greatly influenced by the sizable Scandinavian-German influx of immigrants in the last decades of the 19th Century. Thus it can be said that the history of Dania is not only the record of the Danes in Chicago but is also an integral part of the early history of the American Midwest. Dania is the oldest Danish society outside Denmark, not only in the United States but in the entire world, and its centennial history, 1862-1962, reveals the part which the Danes have played in Chicago's history. It should be remembered, however, that the chronicle of the Danish churches in Chicago, from 1871 to date, also constitutes an important chapter of this history.

In 1862, twenty five years after the incorporation of Chicago as a city (1837), the future metropolis began burgeoning. The giants of industry and commerce were establishing themselves, and Chicago was slowly losing the appearance of a muddy, Indian frontier town. The Bureau of Census reported in 1860 that there were 712 Danes in the State of Illinois, 600 of whom lived in Chicago. The first large influx of Danish immigrants took place in the early 1860's, and by 1870 the number of Danes in Illinois had increased to 3,711. The Danish immigrants, mostly artisans and journeymen, settled mostly in the vicinity of La Salle and Kinzie Streets where the rent and living expenses were the most reasonable.

Emigration has always been an economic-socio-politically motivated movement of population toward freedom and better living conditions. People leave their native land either because of the existence of tyranny in one form or another, or because of the lack of opportunities to make a decent living. Consequently, emigrants were from the underprivileged classes of society, and those from Denmark were, by and large, no exception. The Danish immigrants had no knowledge of foreign languages, and arriving in a multi-racial city like Chicago they had to look to themselves for their own entertainment and social intercourse. It was only natural for the comparatively few Chicago Danes to meet, for instance, at the Kinzie Inn (later known as the Klondyke Inn), next to the corner of La Salle St., and receive their mail and read "Foster's Newspaper," -a two month old "Berlingske Tidende." It was also in keeping with their national heritage to want to form a Danish society, or club, where they could

meet, speak their mother tongue, and enjoy their common cultural and national traditions.

It was during the days of the Civil War that a Danish society was born in Chicago on Sunday, November 23, 1862. Johan Foster, a painter by trade but also an artist, organized the important meeting on that date at the Kinzie Inn. Twelve Danish immigrant artisans were present, but it was Johan Foster who conceived the idea and must rightfully be considered the founder. A resolution was passed which read: "That we are today forming a Danish society in Chicago, and that the name of said society shall be the "Society Dana." The signers of Dana's birth certificate were: Johan Foster; P. C. Petersen; George Hoffman; Martin Brodthagen; Peter Bennediksen; S. Mikkelsen; Jens Skov; S. Møller; A. Winter; E. Salling; I. S. Pedersen; H. W. Hansen. Underneath the signatures of these men, the elected president, Johan Foster, wrote in his fine handwriting: "The Society concluded its meeting with the injunction that a meeting place be rented and put in order for use on the coming Sunday, November 30th."

The original name chosen for this Danish society, that of "Dana," is a derivative of "Daner" which means Danes. The name clearly indicated the national origin, and the choice may have been influenced by the names of the Swedish club, "Svea" and the Norwegian club, "Nora." In 1865 the name was changed to "Dania," which is Medieval Latin for "Denmark."

In order to spare the reader from any confusion arising from the references to "Dana" and "Dania," the name "Dania" will be used throughout, even though the reference may be to the Society's activities prior to the name change in 1865.

The location of the second meeting cannot be stated with certainty; it was probably in Johan Foster's home at 53 West Randolph Street. Evidently it was difficult to find a suitable place to convene regularly, so the next weekly meetings were held in Wilken's Cafe on La Salle Street. Here the members sat at a round table, conversing in Danish and reminiscing about Denmark. For a score of years Wilken's Cafe was the regular meeting place of Chicago's most prominent Danes. Their private table, -a big, mahogany round table,- became so famous that some sixty years later Dr. Max Henius had it shipped to the University Cafe in Copenhagen: during the Nazi occupation, 1940-45, the table mysteriously disappeared and has not been seen since. Conviviality reigned at Wilken's Cafe, and many glasses of good beer and wine were consumed, many priceless stories told, and many speeches held. If only the "Round Table" could have told its own story!

A constitution and bylaws, drafted by E. Salling, Martin Brodthagen and George Hoffman, was presented at the second Dania meeting and written down in old Gothic letters by the secretary, P. C. Petersen. There were seventeen articles: Article 1 read as follows; "The purpose of this Society is to contribute by united efforts to the entertainment (of the members) by reading, discussion and other useful means." Another article permitted Swedes and Norwegians to become members, while another provided for the cancellation of membership if a member's behavior was indecent or questionable. The bylaws stipulated that the initiation fee was two dollars, and the

dues were fifty cents per month. Meetings were to be held every Sunday, and a general meeting and election of officers every three months. An illuminative sidelight from this meeting was that the Society voted to purchase four spittoons and a deck of cards for its members.

It was still a pressing problem to obtain a meeting place at a reasonable price, as there was hardly any money in Dania's treasury. George Hoffman came to the rescue and offered the club a room in his home on Kinzie Street for five dollars a month, -light, heat, and cleaning included. Hoffman also offered to pick up Dania's mail twice a week at the Post Office for a fee of two dollars. Dania moved into Hoffman's apartment in February of 1863. It was at this time that many books were purchased, and these became the foundation of a large library which was much used by the members during these early years. Johan Foster was the driving force behind the acquisition of these books which he paid for with money earned from his painting.

During its first two years Dania had a most difficult time keeping its head above water. Times were bad, the few members were too poor to keep up with their dues, and the society was not generating too much interest among the Danes in Chicago. At a meeting on December 30, 1863, Johan Foster proposed the following amendment to Dania's constitution: "In the probable case that this Society has to dissolve, its chattels cannot be sold but should be turned over to the Danish Consul, Dr. Petersen, or if circumstances forbid that, to a person whose duty it would be to turn it over to him, or to those who in the future will support Danish honor by maintaining a Danish society by the name of Dania. Such a society should be held together by a constitution like ours. However, if the Dania Society should dissolve and be in debt, the Society's chattels can be sold to liquidate the debt."

If Dania had to draw its last breath, it had to be with honor and dignity. But Dania did not die. New members of the finest caliber came upon the scene, and with their enthusiasm and energetic drive, sustained and vitalized the fledgling society.

Dania's founder and first president, Johan Foster, was a man who gave all his time and effort to furthering the development of the budding society. It is unfortunate that a biography of Foster was never written. Although directly connected with Dania for less than four years, Foster was the one who conceived the idea of such an organization as Dania, and it was he who got the newfledged group off the ground and flying.

The printer, Rasmus Egebergh, before his death, told Anton Kvist that Johan Foster supposedly had come with his parents from Norway to Copenhagen. Regardless of his place of birth, however, Foster spent his entire life among the Danes and the Danish immigrants in America.

The summer of 1866 saw Foster's departure from Chicago. On December 2nd of that same year, Dr. N. P. Petersen (Pearson) proposed that "a letter of gratitude be sent the founder of the Society, Johan Foster, now absent, for his never failing diligence to matters that concerned Dania's welfare, and especially for the items he gave to the theatre wardrobe before his departure". The records do not indicate whether

the letter was sent or not, but Foster's inimitable service to Dania apparently had slipped the minds of the members because a month later they expelled the Society's founder because of a few dollars of unpaid dues. New Orleans, Foster's new home, had not been good to him, and his meager earnings weren't sufficient to keep up his membership dues in Dania. This callous and undeserved treatment of Foster was severely criticized a year later by the president, Johan Klug, and he demanded that Foster be reinstated as a non-paying member for the rest of his life. The shamefaced members agreed, and shortly thereafter a touching reply was received from Foster; he was grateful to again become a member of a society which always had been his special interest. (This letter, never copied, was lost, together with a Christmas letter from Foster, sent from Milwaukee in 1875).

Johan Foster was made an honorary member of Dania in 1869. When death came to Foster on October 9, 1877, however, it was hardly even noticed by Dania. He had been away from Dania for eleven years, and once again we get proof of the old adage: "out of sight, out of mind". It would seem that Dania could have shown a little more sincere appreciation for its founder.

One of the Founding Fathers of Dania was George Hoffman. A farm manager on a Jutland estate, Hoffman emigrated as a young man to America. He enlisted voluntarily in General Grant's Army and during a battle received a bullet wound in his right leg which never completely healed. After the Civil War he started a cigar store (he made his own cigars) and sold newspapers and railroad/steamship tickets. He was an industrious worker and soon saved enough money for a return visit to Denmark.

Hoffman represented in many ways the best Danish qualities: he was an exemplar of solidarity and stability. For two years he was the elected Democratic leader among the Chicago Danes. He did not, however, look with kindness on the many Danish jailbirds and other queer birds that flew over the Atlantic and landed on the shores of Lake Michigan: he knew that many of these "birds" would fare no better here than they did back in Denmark.

In 1863 Hoffman was elected President of Dania and later made an honorary member of the Society. Because of the old wound in his right leg Hoffman finally had to give up his business, and he died shortly after.

Across from George Hoffman's store on Milwaukee Ave. was a haberdashery owned by William Harlev, another Dania member. Harlev was a robust Jutlander who left Denmark after completing his required service in the Danish cavalry. When he arrived in Chicago, like most immigrants he tried his hand at several things before opening a haberdasher's store. Harlev had rather imaginative and advanced ideas in the field of advertising. His advertisements were original as well as topical: on the day of a solar eclipse he advertised, -"In spite of the sun-eclipse today, Harlev's shirts will shine with their usual whiteness".

For awhile Harlev's business income increased and he purchased several buildings as well as the newspaper, "Heimdal", which he enlarged and made the big-

gest Scandinavian newspaper in the country. Harlev moved the "Heimdal" publishing office into one of his larger buildings, and for many years this was known as the Heimdal Building.

Harlev eventually fell on hard times, however, and his business became so unprofitable that he was compelled to close his store. He refused to give up without a fight and consequently went into the building construction business, and not just on a small scale. He built a section of Chicago's insane asylum, and together with the Danish architect, Meldahl, supervised the construction of the State of Illinois Building at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Through political influence, Harlev received several large contracts, one of them for a portion of the Chicago drainage canal. Harlev was thus one of those who helped make the Chicago River flow backwards, thereby saving Chicago's drinking water from contamination.

In the construction business it was not unusual then, nor is it now, for a builder to fail to complete his contract work within the specified time and at his estimated cost. Harlev had that unfortunate experience. He requested extra remuneration to cover his loss on the Drainage Canal project but lost his case in court and was generally considered a financially ruined man. Again Harlev's indomitable spirit prevailed and he started anew as an agent for a window manufacturer. This job didn't provide him with an adequate income so he started a men's novelty and jewelry store which didn't fare much better. Due to these various business fizzles, Harlev finally severed all his social connections with his Danish friends and the various Danish organizations.

At a meeting held on April 7, 1864, Anton Skov informed the members that he knew of a spacious apartment at Kinzie and LaSalle Street which was suitable for Dania's use and could be had for ten dollars a month. He received unanimous permission to rent and repair the apartment. It was also decided that on the windowpane above the new entrance door, the name Dania Society should be painted in large letters, and that in a box behind the window, a candle should burn every evening so that Dania's sign could be seen in the dark. It was also agreed that a strong rope should be attached to the window sill so that members could slide down and escape in case of fire. This is certainly what Hans Christian Andersen would strongly have suggested.

One of the first actions taken in their new quarters was the establishing of Peter von der Recke as the manager and steward. Kitchen utensils and an icebox were purchased so that the members could be served food at the meetings. Everyone wanted carpets for the new Dania headquarters, but there was only money enough to buy some spittoons.

When Otto von Bismark provoked the disastrous Prussian-Austrian War against Denmark in 1864, Dania learned about it through a letter from the Scandinavian Society of New York which asked for Dania's "vigorous support and help in collecting money in America for the war-torn Denmark". Peter von der Recke, the steward, offered to collect the donations from the Dania members for a commission of ten per cent. Generous contributions were collected and forwarded to the proper authorities in Denmark, but apparently von der Recke took in forty dollars more than he forwarded to Denmark. He was strongly censured for this at several meetings and he finally resigned. Some time later, however, Dania sent a letter of thanks to von der

Recke not only for the missing forty dollars but also for his own donation of twenty five dollars, taken from his meager pay as a Union soldier during the American Civil War.

Even after the cessation of hostilities between Germany and Denmark, Dania and Svea and Nora continued to gather funds for the indigent families of the soldiers who were killed or wounded during that war. Denmark was grateful for this help and expressed her appreciation in several letters to these organizations.

After von der Recke's resignation as steward, Niels Uhrenholdt was hired for that job. Called "Niels in the Tower", Uhrenholdt was a middle sized, strongly built man with reddish hair and whiskers. He was one of the many Danes who had worked as a messenger for Ferdinand Winslow before the latter's bank failed.

Uhrenholdt was an excellent steward. In a small room a counter was set up where he served beer, schnapps, and Danish sandwiches at a reasonable price, but he was most careful as to whom he extended credit for this food and drinks. Uhrenholdt took his job seriously, and even helped the treasurer send out the bills and collect the member's dues.

The one thing that Uhrenholdt prided himself most on was his ability to serve a first class banquet dinner. His right-hand in the kitchen was Marie, whom he married, and both of them had to appear after the banquet feast to receive the tumultuous applause. One reason for Uhrenholdt's popularity might have been that for one dollar the members each got a beer, a schnapps, a half bottle of wine, and a full course dinner.

It was then, as it still is now, the custom to drink toasts at a banquet until the wine ran dry. Toasts were made to Denmark, the United States, Dania, Schlesvig, the ladies present, and then the Uhrenholdts.

In 1864, the first proposal was made to organize some type of sickness insurance plan. The leading proponent was Robert E. Gad, who was vigorously opposed by President Anton Skov, who would not even permit discussion on the idea during the meetings, and who continued his fight against the idea even after his resignation as president. Consul N. P. Petersen took over the presidency, and the Sickness Benefit Association became a reality on August 4, 1866. As far as can be determined, this was the first Danish organization of its kind in America.

The Sickness Benefit Association occasionally had its problems. One incident which was much discussed among the members, and which was even reported in the Chicago newspapers, concerned the claim of a Mads Jensen. Jensen owned a saloon on Milwaukee Avenue and was a member of the Association. Declaring himself ill, he made a claim for benefits. The Association's doctor, however, discovered that Jensen was suffering from a chronic disease and was not entitled to any sickness benefits according to the rules of the plan. Jensen, believing that he was being bamboozled out of his legitimate claim, hired some lawyers. They in turn persuaded a Justice of Peace to issue a warrant for the seizure of enough of Dania's property to cover Jensen's

claim. Several police officers then arrived at Dania and proceeded to fill their police wagon up with chairs, tables, pictures, and other furnishings. The portrait of Frederik VII and the Danish flag were carried out: the driver placed Frederik VII's picture between his knees, and "Dannebrog" waved from the top of the furniture load. Several of Dania's members chased after the police wagon but were unable to overtake it. Through legal channels, however, Dania's property was recovered, and shortly thereafter Mads Jensen passed away.

George P. Bay was one of the early members of Dania. Born in Viborg, Denmark, and trained as a turner, he emigrated with his brother in the early 1850's to Chicago. Bay first found work at the city's largest carriage factory, and then became manager of a hospital for contagious diseases which was located in a cemetery which is now Lincoln Park. Later Bay started a grocery business which was successful, and then joined Andrew Petersen in his banking establishment which was subsequently called "Petersen & Bay". Bay acquired considerable real estate, and in 1866 built a beautiful home, the plans for which were drawn by the Danish architect, Soren Peter Hammerich.

The name of Captain Emanuel Engelstedt is a prominent one in the early history of Dania. He came to Chicago before the Civil War, in which he later served as a captain, and together with George Bay was admitted into Dania on August 10, 1864. His devotion to the Society and its founder, Johan Foster, was unceasing. His interest in the theatrical performances and in the library never diminished, and he invariably supported Foster in the latter's requests for money for new stage plays.

In culture and intelligence Engelstedt was heads above most of the members of Dania. He was kind and unaffected in his manner, and very popular with his fellow members, who always listened attentively when he spoke out for his favorite causes. He was active on many committees and was several times a member of the Board of Directors.

Captain Engelstedt died in September of 1872. The following tribute to him was printed in "Skandinaven": *"Dania has suffered a painful and sudden loss in the parting of one of its oldest and bravest members, Captain Emanuel Engelstedt, who on the 17th inst. came to his eternal rest. In his best years and with a lovely family and a large circle of friends, he will be mourned by many and by us. His unselfishness, his kind attitude to unknown but needy countrymen won him the hearts of all those that now sorrow at his too early departure from life. Therefore, it is resolved that Dania Society hereby expresses its deepest regrets at the altogether too early passing of Captain Emanuel Engelstedt, and that it considers the loss of him the loss of a dearly beloved member. Hereby, the Dania Society expresses its heartiest and most sincere sympathy for his bereaved wife and relatives."*

(Signed) CHARLES MARTENS, *Corresponding Secretary*

The first anniversary festival held by Dania was on November 23, 1864. To defray the cost of the celebration, subscription lists for donations were tacked up in

the club rooms, and the more affluent members were asked to indicate the amount of their contributions. For the festival, the entrance door and the banquet hall were decorated in the Danish colors, and the members and their guests showed up in their finest, most fashionable clothes. The food and drinks were of the best, the dancing lively, and the spirits ran high, -a pattern adhered to at all the later anniversary parties. Since everything was "on the house", several celebrants imbibed too much, and as a result several fist fights broke out. All those who couldn't behave were thrown out.

A debating club was formed by the members of Dania in 1864, and the first meeting took place on the 4th of June of that same year. It is rather amusing to note that the subject of the first debate was: "Is Woman Stronger Than Man?"; the first argument was given by Dania member N. P. Morin, a Danish speaking Frenchman. Unfortunately the records do not indicate the outcome of this important debate.

On St. Stephen's Day, December 26, 1864, the first theatrical performance within Chicago's Danish colony took place. Dania's Johan Foster was the director, stage manager and scene designer. The Dania minutes indicate that he was allocated \$60.00 for this venture, but no mention is made of the name of the play or the names of the performers. It is reported that Foster had been very successful with the backdrop: it was a scene of white swans and blue water, against a background of green beech trees and neat houses over which waved a "Dannebrog". Like most plays, Foster's was a success as entertainment but not as a money making venture. Nevertheless, Foster received Dania's sincere thanks, and it was decided to keep the stage and retain Foster as the theatre director, a position he kept for several years.

Dania's first flag was sewn by Mmes. H. Bay and G. Bay in 1864; in 1867 another banner was sewn by Mmes. A. Skov and G. Bay. Dania then purchased a Danish flag together with an American one, and these flags were always present at the various festivals held in the three Scandinavian societies. These banners and flags were also lent to various groups: a Methodist Church and an American social club were given the use of the Danish colors, but not the high-toned, uppish Scandinavian Society.

The Scandinavian Society was formed in 1865 by Ferdinand Winslow, the banker. Its members were mainly Emil Dreier's friends who had bolted Dania, and its quarters of finely appointed rooms were located in Uhlich's Block near the Clark Street bridge. When Winslow went bankrupt in 1872 the Scandinavian Society went down with him, and most of the members returned to Dania's fold. Although Dania refused to lend its banners to this organization, the relationship between the two societies was rather friendly during the very last years before the Scandinavian Society folded up.

The name of the society was changed from Dana to Dania in 1865. Emil Dreier, who had just become a member, was not satisfied with the name, "Dana"; he felt it was too feminine and not fitting for a society of men. Although the founder of Dana, Johan Foster, was very vocal in his opposition to this change, it was voted at the annual meeting on January 25, 1865, that the new name should be "Dania". It was also decided to make considerable changes in the bylaws and to incorporate Dania under the Statutes of the State of Illinois.

The esteemed Civil War veteran, and lawyer, Colonel Augustus Jacobsen, was chosen to take care of the legal procedure necessitated by this name change. On

February 16, 1865, Dania Society was duly incorporated, and it became officially known that there was a Dania Society of the City of Chicago, a corporation not for profit, created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Illinois.

A Bylaws Committee was formed, consisting of Consul N. P. Petersen (who as president had the honor of being Dana's last, and Dania's first president), Anton Skov, Emil Dreier, Christian Hedegaard, and a Mr. Larsen. The first three paragraphs of the new bylaws read as follows: "The purpose of the Dania Society is to promote a closer social intercourse between the Scandinavians and mainly the Danish element in Chicago; also to occasionally provide lectures, recitals and debates with the intention to create taste for spiritual improvement; and through the establishing of a library, to further the general enlightenment of the members".

Even though "Dania" was the new name of the society, it was difficult for many members to accept it: some refused to use the new name, preferring "Dana" and "The Danish Society" to "Dania". Long after the name was changed, various Recording Secretaries still adhered to the old name, "Dana".

The driving force and human dynamo behind Dania's growth was Peter Emil Dreier. He joined Dania on November 26, 1864, and the following year he took over the presidency from Consul Petersen. Under Dreier's powerful leadership Dania grew in membership and in financial resources. Because of Dreier's social status, many of the Danish colony's prominent physicians, architects, bankers, lawyers and contractors played follow-the-leader and trailed "The Pied Piper of Milwaukee Avenue" into Dania. There is no question but that Dreier was an invaluable asset to the new organization, and that through his ability and effort Dania attained many of her objectives and created a deep respect for both the Danish colony and Denmark.

When Dreier became Dania's chief executive in 1865, Dania had \$3300.00 in its treasury. It was decided to purchase property and erect a club building which would contain a banquet hall, library, barroom and an apartment for the steward. Consul Petersen, H. Renee and Lieutenant Hammerich, an architect, were authorized to act in behalf of Dania, and Johan Foster took it upon himself to locate a suitable site. Hammerich drew the plans and specifications as his contribution to the cause, but for some reason the project never came to fruition.

Emil Dreier was a side-whiskered, corpulent man who was exceedingly energetic and possessed a jolly disposition, -except when plagued by the gout or hot weather. Dreier came from a long line of jurists, but he himself chose pharmacy as his vocation. In 1854, he emigrated to America together with Dr. N. P. Petersen, and both went directly to Chicago where Dreier first worked for A. J. Miller's soft drink manufacturing company before establishing his pharmacy on Milwaukee Avenue. In 1867 he married a German girl, Augusta Fischer, who learned to speak fluent Danish, and became better acquainted with Danish literature than most Danes were. Dreier was very Danish, and he once admitted at a banquet in Dania that his one big mistake had been to become a naturalized American citizen because he was, and would always remain, Danish in his outlook and sympathies.

As a result of the dispute over the Danish Consul post with George Bay and Anton Skov, Dreier resigned from Dania in 1867. Many of those who followed Dreier

into Dania followed him out, and these included such men as Captain Engelstedt, Ferdinand Winslow and George Hoffman. Many of Dreier's cronies soon returned to Dania, and Dreier himself rejoined the Society five years later.

Dreier served the City of Chicago four years as a member of the Board of Education, and was a Park Commissioner for the same length of time. In 1882 he became the Danish Consul in Chicago, and was knighted by the King of Denmark.

In 1892, on a return trip from Denmark, Emil Dreier died suddenly aboard the old Thingvalla boat, "Hekla", while it was in quarantine at Liberty Island.

Being a dyed in the wool atheist, no clergyman officiated at Dreier's funeral. The President of Dania, Henry Ockenholdt, stood by the open grave where the small wooden box containing the ashes of the deceased rested on a large Danish flag, and eulogized the late Consul and Dania member in well chosen words.

A year after Emil Dreier passed away, Andrew Petersen, the brother of Dr. Pearson, took over Dreier's post as the Danish Consul in Chicago. Andrew Petersen was a banker by profession, and together with George Bay, formed the banking firm of "Petersen & Bay" which later was known as the Western Trust & Savings Bank.

A most respected businessman, Andrew Petersen died in 1899, and left a fortune of \$150,000.00. Although a member of Dania, Petersen spent most of his time at the Union League Club.

Consul Andrew Petersen was succeeded as Consul by Christian H. Hansen, a man of great influence in all affairs affecting Danish immigrants. He founded a business for manufacturing stamps and stencils, and to differentiate him from the many other Hansens, he was consequently called, "Stempel-Hansen" ("Stamp-Hansen"). Many immigrants found their first employment in Chicago at Hansen's factory, probably at low but very welcome wages. As Consul, Hansen helped many poor countrymen who were in dire circumstances, and he and his wife contributed large sums of money to various Danish projects: they both were instrumental in creating a home for Danish old people. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hansen were decorated by the King of Denmark in recognition of their good works. Christian Hansen was the last Danish Consul who was also an American citizen. After his death all future Consuls were selected and sent over by the Danish government.

One of Dania's pioneer members who was seen only occasionally was the sculptor, J. Gelert. Gelert was not too popular because he was rather tight-fisted; he would always accept a drink but would never return the treat. Emil Dreier had established Gelert in a studio behind his pharmacy and had secured for him his first sculpture order, that of a bust for an affluent Chicagoan. Later Gelert executed a monument, based on a St. Louis reporter's sketch, to the memory of the seven Chicago policemen killed in the 1886 Haymarket Riot. This monument has since disappeared, but not his imposing statue of General Grant which still stands in Galena, Illinois. Gelert modeled some animal heads for one of the Chicago packing houses, but he is mainly known for his statue of Hans Christian Andersen which stands in Lincoln Park.

It was during Andrew Petersen's tenure as Danish Consul that the idea of erecting a monument to the world famous fairy tale writer was born. It received immediate approval from the Consul, and some 100 Danes were invited to attend a meeting to discuss the idea. Gelert and his ardent supporters, however, were adamant in their demand that there be no competition for the sculpture work. At a later meeting the sculptor and his alter egos were in the majority and again demanded that no rival candidates be allowed; the opposition stalked out of the meeting.

The type of statue was also the subject of much discussion; one committeeman wanted a "standing" Andersen, another wanted a "sitting" Andersen, while others pressed for a statue identical to the one in "The King's Garden" in Copenhagen. Gelert's drawings (a "sitting" Andersen) and cost estimate were finally approved, and the uphill drive for money began. It took five to six years before the statue was finished, but even then there wasn't enough money for the foundation. If it hadn't been for the generosity of Consul Christian Hansen it undoubtedly would have taken several additional years before the unveiling could take place. It did take place on the 100th anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen's birth, April 2, 1905.

Gelert became a rather prosperous man and built a large studio on the near North Side where he gathered his admiring but penniless students. He is said to have turned his back on his old friends who had helped him so much in his early days, and as work diminished in Chicago he moved to New York.

One of Gelert's severest critics was a Danish architect by the name of Lautrup who called Gelert a "peasant-artist",-an altogether too harsh censure. Lautrup came to Chicago from Washington D.C. and quickly found work here as an architect. He was a handsome man of many abilities, a bit flighty but witty, and a favorite with Consul Dreier who immediately invited him to sit at the Round Table in Wilken's Cafe. Whenever Dreier lapsed into a melancholy mood it was Lautrup who was called upon to be the court jester. Lautrup once made a caricature of Dreier as a mikado, and it was so cleverly done that Dreier had it framed and placed on his office desk. After Dreier's death Lautrup disappeared from Dania and the Danish colony.

Anton Skov, the strong-willed President of Dania in 1864 and in 1865, was definitely one of the guiding forces in the young Society. He was active in every facet of Dania's development, and put his shoulder behind every project and cause which he felt was good for the organization. That he was not afraid to speak his mind was shown in his violent dispute with Emil Dreier over the Danish Consul post. In that same year (1867) Skov found himself battling another vital issue.

Shortly after Anton Skov had been made Dania's first honorary member in 1867, it was proposed at a meeting that the Swedish and Norwegian members be denied the right to vote at the meetings. Skov protested vehemently, but in vain. He took off his badge of honor and returned it to the Society, saying that he couldn't remain a member of a society where such a ruling would be a personal affront to his Norwegian friend, and one of Dania's members, Markus Thrane.

Markus Thrane had been imprisoned for four years in Norway for his fight for religious liberty. He emigrated to Chicago, became a member of Dania in 1863, and was for several years one of the best recording secretaries that the Society ever had.

In Dania's early days it was the custom for members to donate books, pictures, statues, etc. for decorative purposes. Among such donations only a few can be mentioned, such as Jens Skov's gift of six books and two large picture frames for the photographs of Dania's members and the membership list. Skov and the vice president, Fritz Frantzen, were assigned the task of assembling and inserting the various pictures. In May of 1870, J. Josephsen, the secretary, wrote in the minutes: "A portrait of King Frederik VII, of blessed memory, has been given the Society by I. Z. (Major) Alstrup. It is resolved to send the donor a letter of thanks, and to defray the expense of framing it". And so this is how the old and now faded picture of "Frederik the Beloved" came into Dania's possession. Its preservation borders on the miraculous, for it has survived fires, court injunctions, and numerous movings.

During this same period, Dania also served as a clearing house for information about missing relatives, friends, and even deserting fathers. In December of 1886, Dania received a letter from a Miss Gomard of Lindevad Mill (near Svendborg), asking the Society to locate a N. Jacobsen who had departed for Chicago several months before. He apparently had left her in "painful circumstances". N. Jacobsen was found on the South Side and brought in touch with Miss Gomard. Half a year later, another letter came from Miss Gomard, who bitterly complained that Jacobsen again had stopped writing, even after he had been informed that he was the father of her child. Dania was asked to pay for his return trip to Denmark, but this request was politely turned down.

Many outstanding men contributed to the intellectual life of Dania. Their talents were employed mostly in the newspapers published in the Danish language. These papers were for the most part short-lived, most of them ceasing publication soon after the Chicago Fire. Among these newspapers was "Fremad" ("Forward" -Americans pronounced it "Frimad" which in Danish means something like "free lunch"). "Fremad" was first published in Milwaukee by a Just Kahn who later moved the paper to Chicago, and became a member of Dania. The manager was a Mr. Beder, a Danish Bachelor of Law and close friend of the banker, Ferdinand Winslow. The editor was Gustav Mueller, a former Danish army officer.

Just Kahn was a man of imagination and ideas. He was supposed to have been part owner of a freight-passenger boat which plied between Copenhagen and New York. Kahn on one occasion was forced to take a trip back to Denmark, and his anxious Danish creditors were more than happy to bid him a hearty welcome home. Kahn wiggled out of this dilemma by inviting his creditors to an elegant dinner party aboard his ship. At the height of the conviviality Kahn signalled his captain to start the engines. A little later, and some distance from shore, the guests woke up to the fact that they were sailing, and they demanded to be brought back to land. Kahn complied with their wishes and put them into some small boats which he had rented just for that purpose. A most clever way to get rid of one's creditors!

Some years later Just Kahn returned permanently to Denmark where he started another newspaper called "Dagsavisen" ("The Daily Paper"). Apparently things didn't fare too well for Kahn for he died in rather poor circumstances.

In spite of its many subscribers, "Fremad" was continually plagued during the 1870's with financial difficulties. This was in large part due to the editor, Gustav Mueller (or, Muller), who was a poor administrator as well as having an alcoholic problem. The son of a Ribe minister, Mueller taught school for awhile in Denmark and was a lieutenant in the Danish army during the War of 1864. He was decorated with the Cross of the Order of Dannebrog for his bravery at the Battle of Sankelmark. Later when visiting in Copenhagen, Mueller called on King Christian IX and asked him to take back the decoration since he, Mueller, was out of work and probably would end in the poorhouse. King Christian IX thought this an undignified prospect for a decorated soldier and found Mueller a job on the Copenhagen police force. According to the late Rev. Rasmus Andersen of Brooklyn, "the bottle was a too strict master for him (Mueller) so he was sent to America".

In New York, Gustav Mueller worked for awhile with John Volk, the founder of "Nordlyset" ("The Northern Lights"), and labored occasionally at a cork factory at Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Once, when under the influence, he pawned his decoration, but the Danish Consulate in New York redeemed it for him.

Mueller became a member of Dania on March 5, 1870, and four weeks later was elected as vice-president. Dania's records seem to indicate that Mueller's main contribution to the Society was entertaining the members by reading aloud.

When Gustav Mueller came to Chicago he brought his soldierly spirit with him. He always retained his military appearance, and the old soldier in him occasionally came to life again. At a German parade commemorating the battle at Sedan, Mueller unfurled a large American flag which bore the inscription: "We Mourn France". This naturally nearly caused a riot, but some sympathetic Irishmen came to his rescue.

Another of Mueller's idiosyncrasies was his fear of getting a sunstroke, and he often walked down Chicago's sunlit streets with an open umbrella. That there were other facets to Mueller's personality, however, was shown by the fact that he founded Dania's first glee club in 1870, and that he wrote poetry in the Danish and Norwegian newspapers. Mueller's last poem was a heart rendering cry of a dying man in agony and doubt, a sinful man asking for peace of mind. During his last days, in the late 1870's, Mueller apparently stayed at some type of Salvation Army shelter, for it was a Salvation Army man who brought a Danish minister to Mueller's deathbed: communion was given Mueller before death put an end to his misery.

The man who succeeded Gustav Mueller as the editor of "Fremad" was Hoffman-Schmidt, another Dania member. Well liked by his countrymen, he supposedly came from a prominent family in Denmark, where he was the proud owner of a coach-and-four and was the editor of a humorous magazine, "Pjerrot". Due to some questionable financial transactions in Copenhagen he came, or was sent, to America. In the presence of cultured people, Hoffman-Schmidt was a suave, urbane and polished man. When introduced to a lady he would stand still, click his heels, bow, and tip his hat, -the perfect gentleman. Among his cronies, however, with a stein of beer in his hand, he could be rather crude and frightening.

When "Fremad" ceased publication, a German publisher gave Hoffman-

Schmidt money to start "Friheden" ("Liberty"), a newspaper which was to oppose a temperance paper. The teetotalists lost in an election and consequently "Friheden" was no longer necessary and lost its financial support.

Hoffman-Schmidt was once again without a livelihood and became, as a result, a dipsomaniac, spending most of his time in saloons. One of his favorite haunts had two entrances: one on Milwaukee Ave. called the "Evening Star"; and the other on Indiana Ave. called the "Morning Star". Hoffman-Schmidt could also be found in "Hulen" ("The Cave"), a dive of dubious reputation, located near Emil Dreier's pharmacy. The saloon keeper at "Hulen" always stood at the entrance, watching for the police, as he had no license to sell alcoholic beverages. In a small back room Hoffman-Schmidt drank and played poker, which was also illegal. The obvious end to such living was incurable cirrhosis of the liver. After months of intense suffering Hoffman-Schmidt died. Rev. Heiberg of the Danish Trinity Lutheran Church preached at his funeral but made no reference to the decedent's turbulent life, a kindness for which Hoffman-Schmidt's friends were most grateful.

Another Dania member who achieved some success in the political arena was George P. Hansen. Born in Odense and trained as both a painter and a typographer, Hansen served in the U. S. Navy for three years before coming to Chicago in 1839. At first he worked as a photographer and then became an owner of a cigar store. He also ran a general store together with Captain George "The Old Whale" Petersen.

Hansen was a gifted and intelligent man with an insatiable interest in American politics. He became a County Agent and for some time was City Coroner. Busy as he was, Hansen found time to translate some of the Icelandic sagas, but these, with a few exceptions, were never printed due to his lack of money.

Hansen became the American Consul in Elsinore, and joined Dania upon his return to Chicago. He died here in the early 1880's, and left no family or property.

Another member of the Round Table coterie, and one of Dania's most outstanding early members, was Dr. Christian Fenger, a man who is still highly respected by all, whether they have any connections with Denmark or not. Passed by for an appointment to a medical position at the University of Copenhagen, Fenger, as a young man, traveled through Europe from one big city to another, and ended up serving in the French army during the French-German War of 1870. Later he went to Egypt where he offered his services to the ruling khedive. He finally wended his way to Chicago where he arrived penniless: his only possession was a mummy which not only caused him no end of trouble but which he had to sell in order to subsist.

Dr. Fenger was a man of unusual skill and ability as a physician and surgeon but he lacked the knack of trumpeting his own talents and only a few patients found their way to his office near Milwaukee Ave. Fenger's luck changed when a bricklayer by the name of Hansen came to him with trichinosis and went away cured. Hansen was related to William Harlev who publicized Fenger's medical achievement and got the case mentioned in various medical journals as well as the Chicago newspapers.

This served to permanently establish Fenger in the medical world.

Through William Harlev's political influence Fenger was placed on the staff of Cook County Hospital where he performed many difficult operations which astounded his medical colleagues. He received no salary for this work but acquired not only invaluable experience but also much fame as a surgeon. He became the first doctor of anatomical pathology in the City of Chicago.

Dr. Fenger was rather brusque in manner and would often scare his patients with his sometimes too frank language. His professional adversaries accused him of being too eager to use the knife. After several years at Cook County Hospital he took up private practice and had a large clientele. His income at this time was said to have been enormous but he was not considered a good fiscal manager. He built a large, handsome residence on Lake Michigan, and being a Champagne devotee had a well stocked wine cellar. Fenger made a trip to Denmark when he was an older man but returned to Chicago, and shortly after his sixtieth birthday contracted pneumonia and died. His passing was mourned by both his American friends and the Danish colony. Cook County Hospital honored him with a bronze plaque, and the City of Chicago immortalized him by naming one of its high schools for him.

Dr. N. P. Petersen (Pearson), who arrived together with Emil Dreier in New York in 1856 and who was Dania's President in 1864, was also a physician. He had a rather difficult nature, however, and was short of patience and self control. He was jealous of Dr. Fenger and the other Danish doctor at that time, Dr. Sigismund Jacobsen. Pearson was induced to take over a position at a less reputable medical school where the questionable Dr. Graham (or Gram) received his diploma as a physician. The school was attacked by the press for making Graham a M.D. and Pearson believed that Dr. Jacobsen, then an eye specialist on the Cook County Hospital staff, was responsible for instigating the defamatory charge. Pearson reached an old age, but the news of his death was met with indifference by the Danish colony.

Dr. Fenger's successor, Dr. Niels Johnsen, and Dr. Jacobsen were both very Danish and represented the best in Danish culture. Both doctors were well liked by the Chicago Danes, but both eventually returned to Denmark, the tempo of American city life possibly being too hard on them.

Dania's social events were always well attended, and a gay and jolly time was had by everyone. Less desirable characters, however, were sometimes present, and brawls were rather common. In 1865, a rule was passed to the effect that, "no woman of a bad reputation and questionable looks should be admitted to the dances, and that each gentleman was responsible for the good behavior of his lady in the hall". At each dance two or three of the Society's biggest and strongest men were chosen as marshalls, and with their batons in hand and authoritative gold ribbon around their hats, they kept a watchful eye on the dancers. It happened, of course, that now and then someone suffered a cracked skull before the marshalls could intervene. If the altercation was between nonmembers, they were turned over to the police. If between members,

a jury of nine would deliberate the case and decide the fine.

At one particular dance, Peter Balle, a carpenter, and a few of his friends changed the contours of William Dreier's face. Balle had swung his massive fists down on Dreier's head with rather telling effect. The jury fixed the punishment at five dollars, together with an apology to both Dania and William Dreier: if Balle refused to comply he would have to leave Dania. The pugnacious carpenter made the proper apologies but had no money for the fine. The Balle-Dreier fracas finally was settled peacefully without any fine being paid.

During the 1860's, Dania received many requests for help from Danes not only in Chicago but even outside of Illinois. Dania was then, and has always been, most generous in coming to the aid of countrymen in need. The records show that Dania helped a certain Chicagoan who needed an artificial leg, and an Iowa farmer who had been wiped out by an invasion of grasshoppers. A young man in Illinois, critically ill with tuberculosis, received money from Dania for a ticket home to his mother in Denmark and his final resting place. Dania's coffers were dipped into in order to aid the victims of a disastrous fire in Frederiksmide near Omaha, Nebraska. These are but a few examples of Dania's charitableness during its early years.

It should not be thought, however, that Dania indiscriminately doled out its money to everyone that came knocking on its door for help. A request from a Dane in Missouri to finance the publishing of a book he had written was refused, as was that of a Copenhagen who wanted help in re-establishing his bankrupt friend. An unemployed Dane asked for money to go to Washington where he had been promised work, but Dania turned thumbs down. Dania was never a foolish benefactor!

The two Great Lakes captains, Christoffer Johnsen and Peter T. Allen, became Dania members on February 24, 1864, and January 7, 1866, respectively. Captain Johnsen was a diligent worker for both Dana and Dania: he was Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President (1866), as well as an active committee member. A man of few words, Johnsen commanded respect, and was always listened to when he did speak.

Captain Johnsen retired as a skipper in 1853, and went into the lumber business which later was completely destroyed in the Chicago Fire of 1871. Johnsen and his family then moved to their farm in Lamont, Illinois, where they stayed until 1883, at which time they returned to Chicago. In 1878, the Dania steward, Niels Uhrenholdt, suggested at a meeting that Dania donate or collect twenty five dollars for the purchase of a horse and wagon for the old Captain Johnsen; the motion was voted down.

Captain Peter Allen came to Chicago in 1837 (the first Dane in Chicago), and was a member of Dania for only two years, 1866 to 1868. Allen was known as the "Boy Captain": he had been promoted to captain after taking his schooner through the dangerous Soo-Saint Marie waters during a storm, and this feat made him the youngest captain on the Lakes. Allen gave up his sailing career and became an agent for a nail manufacturer in New York. He also dabbled in real estate, but ended up

selling hardware from door to door.

In 1903, Captain Allen was admitted to the Danish Old People's Home in Norwood Park, his wife entered an American old people's home, and in 1904 they celebrated their golden anniversary. Peter Allen died in 1908 and was buried in Union Ridge Cemetery, where one can still find a small gray stone, inscribed, "Peter Allen." Anton Kvist suggested that there should have been added to this inscription, -"The Boy Captain -The First Man of the Danes in Chicago."

17

The first masquerade party among the Chicago Danes was held under the auspices of Dania in Germania Hall on February 9, 1866. This was the beginning of a long series of annual masquerades which for many years were the most important social events in Chicago's Danish colony. Each masquerade had some theme; one year it was Egyptian, another year, Chinese, and so on. At one such masquerade, where the theme was Farm Life, a pig somehow broke loose and ran in amongst the dancers. Whether the pig's squeals or the ladies' screams were the loudest was difficult to tell. The pig was eventually caught and placed in a box, but then completely forgotten about when the evening was over. The poor animal somehow escaped from the box and proceeded to romp all over the polished floors, making a true pigsty out of the hall. For several days and nights the pig trotted around, creating a maloder that nearly made Niels Uhrenholdt ill when he finally entered the hall to clean it. Through human forgetfulness and a pig's natural functions, Dania's hall had been transformed into Augean stables, and Niels Uhrenholdt's job was not an enviable one. He didn't regard this "pig episode" a funny one, but Dania members did. They laughed and laughed, much to Uhrenholdt's annoyance, but they ended up by paying their steward extra compensation for this work beyond the call of duty.

On June 5, 1866, Dania arranged the first Danish Constitution Day festival in the United States. This celebration was a welcome opportunity for an outing, and it served as a wonderful outlet for the Danes' patriotic feelings. With colorful banners and cacophonous music the celebrants marched to the festival grounds. They gathered around the speaker's platform, which was decorated with flags and garlands, and listened to the various orators extoll the merits of King Frederik VII and his morganatic wife, Countess Danner. Songs, written to Danish tunes, were lustily sung, accompanied by an amateur brass band. Everyone was in a merry mood, especially the younger ones on the dance floor which had been erected just for this celebration.

For several years the Danish Constitution Day was celebrated in this manner. The Mayor of Chicago was always invited, and if unable to attend, sent his representative to speak on his behalf. Needless to say, Chicago's city officials only attended for political reasons. Mayor Carter Harrison always accepted the invitation, shrewdly explaining to the assembled Danes that his forefathers were Danish. (Harrison, however, changed from German to Polish to Hungarian descent depending on what ethnic group he was addressing).

The fifty year jubilee of the Danish Constitution Day, in 1899, was marked by

a festival in Elliot Park, Illinois. Ten years later the 60th anniversary was planned by a committee made up of delegates from each of the then twenty seven Danish organizations in Chicago. This joint committee successfully carried out the duties which previously had been Dania's sole responsibility. This committee was then named the Danish National Committee, and has been in existence ever since. Dania delegates have always been active in this Committee, and all the presidents of the Danish National Committee have also been valuable members of Dania.

Dania always maintained a much used reading room where members could glance through the Copenhagen newspapers, such as "Faedrelandet" ("The Fatherland") and "Dagbladet" ("The Daily News"), and also "Leslie's Weekly" and "Skandinaven." The dream of a library was finally realized when \$40.00 was earmarked for bookcases and \$100.00 was set aside for books. Members and friends had already donated numerous books, and Dania's library officially came into being on July 10, 1866.

The Book Committee consisted of Anton Skov, C. Kanfeldt and M. Ballin. The funds allocated for books were sent to Consul George Hansen, the American consul in Elsinore, Denmark, who together with the famous Danish actor, Karl Mantzius, chose and purchased the many books which in the coming years greatly increased Dania's library. The amounts spent on books were by no means small: sums of \$100.00 and \$200.00 were used for the acquisition of books, which books were devoured immediately upon their arrival by the eager Dania readers. The conscientious librarian for a long period of time was the steward, Niels Uhrenholdt. He kept the book loan records in order, and also supervised the use of the books in the reading room.

That the love for books was deep and genuine in Dania at that time might be corroborated by the following incident. A certain shipment of books from Consul Hansen never reached Dania, a loss much bemoaned by the member readers. Dania was informed, however, that several cartons of books, marked "Dania," were seen in a New York bookstore, the owner of which having bought them at an auction in the belief that they were French books. Anton Skov offered to go to New York, and later proudly returned to Chicago with the missing books, for which he had to pay the book dealer \$59.00. Even though Dania ended up paying for these books twice, there was great joy among the members over these recaptured volumes.

The carpets that had been denied Dania in 1864 because of lack of funds were finally purchased two years later, and the old spittoons were discarded. The next desired item was a piano, and after much discussion it was finally decided in 1869 that a piano must be acquired even though it might cost \$500.00. George Bay spoke with feeling about the salutary effect of piano music on the Society's members. A friend of Dania's, a Mr. Rasmussen ("The Businessman"), advised that a piano could be borrowed from the Williams Hotel through its manager, a Mr. Thorsen. The talks with Thorsen led to nothing, and the members grew impatient with this "piano-talk" and decided to purchase one for \$200.00 down and \$10.00 a month until paid. At the next

meeting there was much jubilation and applause when it was announced that a grand piano, valued at \$600.00, had been purchased and was already standing in the banquet hall. A bylaw pertaining to the use of the new piano was immediately passed, and it was decided to buy a cover for their precious new possession.

One of the most efficient and conscientious pioneer members was Johan Klug. He joined Dania on October 6, 1866, and seven months later, following Dr. Jacobsen's resignation as president, he took over the president's gavel. Klug's leadership became evident immediately. He increased the club's membership, which was so urgently needed due to the exit of Emil Dreier and his bosom friends. Klug also initiated the Immigrant Aid Committee and the English School, two of Dania's most worthwhile projects. During the period of 1867 to 1872, Klug served three times as Dania's president.

Johan Klug was a gnome-like man with a massive head, high cheek bones, and large, colorless lips. His speech was a whisper. Klug was said to have come from Jutland where he had practiced as a veterinarian, but financial difficulties drove him first to London and then to Chicago. He had no success here as a veterinary and was compelled to do menial clerical work in order to subsist. He dabbled a little in politics, and when his party was victorious in a city election, he was made head of one of the tax divisions. Four years later, however, the opposition party was voted in, and Klug's days as a political henchman came to an end.

Klug was also a kind of amateur philosopher. He tackled various religious problems but ended up as a fanatical spiritualist who believed in the revelations through spiritualistic media. One evening some of his friends decided to have some fun with Klug, and they invited him to dinner in a private home. An aeolian harp had been hung in the fireplace, and when the wind made the harp sound, Klug swore he could hear a chorus of spirits and even the voice of a dear late friend.

Spiritism so dominated Klug's later life that eventually he was unable to work. He was forced to endure Chicago's hard winters without an overcoat or proper shoes, and as a result he contracted pneumonia which ended in consumption and his death in one of the city's hospitals. On June 5, 1890, Dania sent a funeral bouquet to its worthy member.

During its hundred year history, Dania has shown an unusual willingness to help her countrymen, especially the newcomers who needed assistance and help. The Immigrant Aid Committee, sponsored by Johan Klug, was created on April 26, 1867, and was composed of nine members, some of whom were: Anton Skov, Henry Bay, Dr. N. P. Petersen, Carl Kaufeldt, Carl Munck and Niels Uhrenholdt. The Committee contacted manufacturers, railroad companies, builders, etc., inquiring whether they might be able to hire Danish immigrants. The Committee advertised in the Danish papers, in "Castle Garden," in The Scandinavian Society of New York, and in the rooming houses of that port city. The Committee set up its headquarters in the ante-room of Dania and was open certain hours each forenoon and afternoon. Committee members were also present at the railroad stations when immigrants arrived, thereby preventing them from falling into the hands of swindlers and confidence men. Ar-

rangements were also made with reliable American Express men who, with their identifying badge on their coats, guided the arriving immigrants to inexpensive but clean apartments.

The Immigrant Aid Committee met every two weeks to discuss matters, and a monthly report was filed with Dania. Fifty dollars was allotted to the Committee by Dania. This wasn't sufficient to support the Committee's work, and since penniless immigrants were arriving daily after a long, weary ocean voyage as steerage passengers, additional funds were desperately needed. It was decided that twenty per cent of the income derived from membership dues should be turned over to the Committee, and that these funds should be further augmented through public collections and receipts from concerts, dances and picnics.

The chairman of the Immigrant Aid Committee, Anton Skov, asked the Swedish society, Svea, and the Norwegian society, Nora, for support in this important work. The appeal met with great success, and the three Scandinavian societies held a joint picnic in Haas Park, with all the profit going to the Immigrant Aid Committee.

Only six months after the Committee was formed, Johan Klug proudly reported that the Committee had given aid to five hundred needy immigrants, and even had a sizeable amount of money left in its coffers to continue with its fine work. The Immigrant Aid Committee ceased functioning sometime around 1874, but its charitable work is still remembered both in and outside of Chicago.

Anton Kvist tells a touching story which serves as a specific example of the fine work which the Immigrant Aid Committee performed. In the small town of Dannebrog, Nebraska, Kvist heard the following account from the town's postmaster, a Mr. Petersen: "I was eleven years old when, in 1871, I came to this town from Lolland. The founder of Dannebrog, Lars Hannibal, had advised my father to take homestead here. It was a long and disagreeable trip. My mother and the youngest of the family died when we came to Chicago. There we were helpless and distraught and desperate. But suddenly a couple of men from a Danish aid society (i.e. Immigrant Aid Committee) wanted to know if we needed help. When they learned our plight they immediately took us to a Danish boarding house and the next day they took care of our mother's and the little one's funeral, saw to it that we got on the right train and even gave us food for the long trip to Nebraska. It was only natural that this soothed us in our sorrow, and my father often spoke with respect and sadness about this unexpected kindness".

After Dr. N. P. Petersen (Pearson) resigned in 1867 as the Danish Consul, a rather bitter battle ensued for that position. The Danish Consulate in New York asked for suggestions of a well qualified Chicago Dane who would be suitable for the post. Anton Skov recommended George Bay, a merchant who belonged to the elite in Dania. Emil Dreier was recommended and backed by Johan Foster and Ferdinand Winslow. Speaking for George Bay at a meeting in Dania where both candidates were present, the usually calm and self-controlled Anton Skov surprised those present by delivering a scathing and personal attack on Dreier and his personal life. Apparently Dreier had more supporters than Bay did, and Dania sent Dreier's name to the Danish Consulate in New York. Bay didn't give up: as a last resort he and Skov sent a letter to the New York Consulate, the content of which being identical to Skov's remarks about

Dreier in Dania. The Danish Minister in Washington D.C. then wrote back to Dania and informed them that it was entirely up to the Danish Consulate in New York as to who was appointed to the Consul post in Chicago.

At Dania's next meeting, Anton Skov was severely criticized for his slanderous remarks about Dreier. It was the rule at that time (1867) that no defamatory talk about any fellow member would be permitted. A jury debated the case and it was decreed that Skov should go to the home of Dreier, accompanied by two fellow members, W. Lund and George Olsen, and ask Dreier's pardon. Skov agreed to this, but when he faced Dreier in the latter's home, he didn't tone down his opinions one bit: this, at least, was the report that the two witnesses gave at Dania's next meeting.

The capable and popular Dr. Sigismund D. Jacobsen became president of Dania on January 4, 1868, but resigned a week later when Emil Dreier walked out of Dania. Dr. Jacobsen was at that time the Sickness Benefit Association's doctor, at a salary of seventy five dollars a year. He lost this job to former Consul Petersen who promised to donate his medical services. Dr. Petersen's assistant was a Danish speaking Frenchman by the name of Dr. Carlemann, who was a member of Dania, and thought very highly of because of the free medicines and professional services he rendered the immigrants.

The first Danish school in Chicago was sponsored by Dania, and had as its most important subject, instruction in English. The idea for an English school for the newly arrived immigrants was Johan Klug's. Johannes C. Kornerup, the capable Recording Secretary, wrote as follows on January 25, 1868: "Concerning the English School, President Klug made the proposal that John Andersen, editor of "Skandina-ven," be appointed teacher at the school, and that monthly dues for each pupil be fixed at fifty cents for four weekly hours. Dania should buy five Norwegian-Danish-English dictionaries and a copy of Webster's dictionary, as well as pay for all the writing material."

Evening classes were held on Wednesdays and Fridays, and the bar was closed during the instruction periods. The School Committee consisted of Johan Klug, Anton Skov, C. Munk, N. Uhrenholdt, C. Brodthagen, Dr. Petersen, N. Drafflin and M. Moller. The teacher's salary was \$1.50 per evening session.

The subject of drawing was soon added to the curriculum through the generous offer of Lieutenant Soren Peter Hammerich, the architect, and Mr. Rasmussen, a painter. The instruction was free to the members, provided that Dania made available a heated room every Sunday forenoon, and furnished the drawing boards and other materials.

The School was in existence for two years, and was of immense benefit to many at a time when Chicago's public schools were rather inadequate. A formal expression of gratitude was sent to John Andersen for his interest in the welfare of the School and for the time and effort he had expended to make the School a success.

The idea of a Danish brotherhood in America was actually conceived in Dania in 1868, sixteen years before the Danish Brotherhood was founded. At a meeting on May 2, 1868, Anton Skov proposed the following: "Dania Society should get in touch with all the Danish organizations in the United States, through correspondence, with the intention of forming a union of all Danish societies, with Dania as the center of this union. After the formation of such an alliance, Dania would accept any member of any of the societies of this alliance as a brother without initiation fees. The same rights were to be extended to Dania's members." John Klug, Anton Skov and Fritz Frantzen were charged with furthering this idea, but for some reason it never became a reality.

A decade later, Henry Hertz fathered a similar idea by suggesting Dania lodges all over America, with Dania in Chicago as the main lodge: this idea did not win approval either.

In July of 1868, Dania caught on fire and suffered \$163.00 in damages. In the minutes, the rather jolly Secretary made rather light of the fire damage to the furniture, books and papers. The Swedish society, Svea, came to the rescue by permitting Dania the use of its hall for their meetings. Dania's Board of Directors were authorized to seek new quarters but some time elapsed and a Mr. Renee accused the Board of negligence in leaving Dania homeless for over a month and also for purchasing new furniture without receiving proper approval. Renee's charges came to nothing since the Directors apparently defended themselves to everyone's satisfaction.

Dania soon moved into new quarters, but there is no record of the exact location. The moving was celebrated with a fine supper, after which an auction was held. According to Secretary Emil Havelock (he called himself "Havlykke"), the old furniture and clothes which were auctioned off yielded Dania only thirty three dollars.

Emil Havlykke was not one of Dania's best writers, according to Anton Kvist, but his penmanship and humor were excellent. Havlykke, a Copenhagen, became a Dania member on March 24, 1866, and three weeks later became the Recording Secretary, an office to which he was repeatedly re-elected. Havlykke was the grandfather of Dr. Lewis Eastman whom we will speak of later.

Another minor note of discord was struck in 1868 when some members wanted to go to Racine, Wisconsin, and celebrate with the Dania Society of Racine on their first year's anniversary. Carl Munck, however, considered this a "trip abroad", and wanted Dania to go to Calumet on July 26th instead, this being the anniversary of the Battle of Isted (1850). Major Alstrup asked John Klug what had become of the Racine trip, and was told that it had been abandoned. Strong words were exchanged until it was agreed to compromise, and hold a picnic in "Skonk's Grove." The trip to Racine was realized at a later date, and the Racine Society returned the visit.

In 1868, the ever popular steward, Niels Uhrenholdt, promulgated the idea of a Dania emblem which could be worn by the members. The design and price of this emblem were left to a committee consisting of Anton Skov, Soren Hammerich and a Mr. Mikkelsen. Three weeks later three designs were submitted; a cross, a medal, and

a heart. The cross design was selected, probably because it was reminiscent of the Cross of Dannebrog. The cross was to be of silver and worn with a red ribbon decorated with a white cross. At a later meeting, Havlykke reported that the members could purchase these silver cross emblems for \$1.74 each, and that Dania had subsidized about sixty three dollars of the total expense involved with the emblems.

The first Danish glee club was founded in 1868 by Ferdinand Winslow, a Dania member. (Winslow was president of the Scandinavian National Bank which later was forced to close, much to the detriment of Dania and many of the individual members). Winslow was willing and eager to be the director of this new glee club, and application sheets were hung up in Dania for potential singers to sign. After only three months, however, the glee club idea was dropped due to the lack of sufficient voices.

On March 12, 1870, Gustav Mueller recommended that a second attempt be made to form a glee club. He proposed that any Danish man with a good singing voice could become a member after his name had been posted on the bulletin board and his qualifications had been approved. The initial name of the chorus was, "The Singing Society Dania": this was later changed to "Dania's Glee Club", and the change was celebrated with a party that ended in a brawl.

For eight years this glee club not only gave concerts, but produced plays and entertained at Dania's picnics, anniversaries, and masquerade parties. The last performance of this male chorus, on September 28, 1878, was a joint concert with other glee clubs for the benefit of the Danes in New Orleans who had been stricken with yellow fever.

There were Danes who still wanted to sing. In 1884 these songsters formed "Harmonien" ("The Harmony"), many of the original members being men from Dania. Both societies have cooperated nicely throughout the years, and "Harmonien" has entertained in Dania on numerous occasions. "Harmonien" proved to be not only an excellent chorus, but one with outstanding vitality as it is still in existence today.

The Great Chicago Fire of October 8-10, 1871, did not spare Dania. According to Poul Hoff Kunst (in the 1937 Dania Jubilee Book) all the furniture, including the bookcases with the large collection of books, were incinerated by the roaring flames. The same fate was met by the Society's official records and accounts. At the last minute, fortunately, George Hansen, just recently returned from his Consul post in Elsinore, rescued the records and documents, and the ever-alert steward, Niels Uhrenholdt, rescued the picture of Frederik VII and the Danish flag. Dania's banner was later lost, but the painting of Frederik VII still hangs in Dania.

1872-1912

With the typical Chicago “I Will” spirit, Dania began rebuilding after the calamitous fire. Fritz Frantzen was elected president; George Hoffman, vice president; C. Hansen, treasurer; and C. Larsen, secretary. A new development program was embarked on, and plans were laid for replacing the property lost in the fire. The membership increased considerably, this being due to the influx of Danish immigrants after Denmark’s unfortunate war in 1864. That Dania was able to prosper during this period was rather remarkable in view of the economic depression (the Panic of 1873, to be specific) which swept the country and deeply affected Chicago. The melting pot exploded in Chicago in the 1870’s. Unemployment, poverty, riots, bomb-happy anarchists, and suspicion and jealousies between the different immigrant groups, all combined to make the 1870’s one of Chicago’s most tempestuous decades. Yet Dania and its members weathered the storms. The Dania members apparently weren’t too financially embarrassed because they sent money back to the Danish veterans of the wars of 1864 and 1870-71, and also to the Danes in South Jutland who had been rendered homeless by a cataclysmic flood in 1872.

One of the centers of both Danish and American culture was the home in Rogers Park of Morris Salmonsén. Salmonsén’s book, “Brogede Minder fra Fyrretyve Aars Ophold i Chicago” (“A Variety of Memories from Forty Years in Chicago”—1912), has been one of the main sources for much which has been written here of Dania’s Centennial History. Salmonsén was a highly educated man of rare talents. He was married to the sister of Professor Johan Ludvig Heiberg of the University of Copenhagen, and was a brother of the Salmonsén whose name is perpetuated in “Salmonsén’s Konversations Leksikon”.

There appeared in Denmark, in 1872, the first edition of Vilhelm Topsoe’s “Fra Amerika” (“From America”), an extensive description of the political and social conditions in the United States, based on impressions received during the author’s visit here. Morris Salmonsén was intrigued by the author’s names for Chicago; “The

Garden City", and "Queen of Lake Michigan". This may possibly have induced Salmonsens to head for Chicago when he and his wife left Denmark after the War of 1870-71.

In the fall of 1872 the Salmonsens, together with Henry Hertz, arrived in Chicago. Salmonsens couldn't have been overly impressed by what he saw of the "Garden City" as it was only a year after the disastrous fire, and Chicago greeted him with temperatures that were soaring close to 100°F. Walking down the streets, however, he discovered a sign which lifted his spirits: it read, "Christian Hansen's Hotel". The rooms were all taken but at least Salmonsens began to feel at home in Chicago. Christian Hansen later had a hotel called "Dannevirke", and Hansen himself became known as "Dannevirke-Hansen". Mrs. Hansen, a kind, pug-nosed woman, was a most competent cook, and her mock turtle soup was always a favorite with Salmonsens.

One of Salmonsens's first walks in Chicago was to Consul Emil Dreier's drug-store. In his own book Salmonsens gives a vivid description of his visit to the consulate. He was deeply impressed by the sight of Dreier in a top hat; it was the first top hat he had seen in America, and what's more, it graced the head of a confessed atheist!

In November of 1872, Salmonsens received an invitation to visit Dania, which with 400 members was the only Danish society of any consequence in Chicago. Dania was then located in an unattractive brick building on Milwaukee Ave. Salmonsens ascended the steep stairway and entered the large club room where a business meeting was in progress. President John Klug sat on a low platform with the recording secretary at his right. After the meeting, Salmonsens was introduced to John Klug, Valdemar Lund, known as "Langelund", Neils Uhrenholdt, and many others of those present.

When the famous Sarah Bernhardt came to perform in Chicago there was no one among the city officials and dignitaries who could welcome her in her native French except Morris Salmonsens, -an honor that placed him in the foreground of the literary and journalistic men of his time.

In 1882 Salmonsens acquired a position with Chicago's Marriage License Bureau. Here he made full use of his linguistic abilities because he came in contact with all kinds of people who could not yet speak English. In the following years he helped to tie more than one half million marriage knots, always ending the ceremony with a hearty: "God bless you, my children!" Salmonsens's observations as a marriage license clerk are recorded in a humorous little book called, "At the Marriage License Window", a most worthwhile contribution to Chicago's literary history as is, of course, his "A Variety of Memories from Forty Years in Chicago". In the American press can be found many enlightening articles on Danish art, literature, and drama, which were written by Salmonsens. He also ghostwrote many of Dr. Max Henius's speeches.

Salmonsens was a director of Dania for many years and was made an honorary member on December 5, 1891. He undoubtedly was behind Dania's efforts in April of 1892 to obtain a chair for Georg Brandes at the University of Chicago. He passed away in 1912.

Miss Ella Maud Salmonsens, his daughter, has been connected with the Medical Department of the John Crerar Library since 1928, the year Dr. J. Chr. Bay became chief librarian. Thus the name Salmonsens is still connected with Chicago's intellectual life.

One of the most gifted men in the Danish colony at that time was Volkmar Johnsen, a true bohemian who was always gay even when penniless. He spoke both Danish and English extremely well, and wrote both poetry and prose. Johnsen was so well posted that he came close to obtaining a secretarial position at the Office of the American Minister in Copenhagen, but politics intervened and he never got the job. Johnsen then opened a musical instrument store on Milwaukee Ave. and even started writing musical textbooks although he was not a trained musician. These books met with such success that he was able to take a trip back to Denmark and even purchase some paintings at the auction of Bishop Engelstoft's estate.

In the fall of 1874 the newspaper "Heimdal" began publication. It was intended as an independent and liberal paper with weekly news summaries. The first sample issue was made up by Henry L. Hertz, who together with Morris Salmonsens had arrived in the fall of 1872 on Baltische Lloyd's new steamer. Hertz, having not as yet started on his political career, acted as an advertising agent for "Heimdal" and procured the necessary ads to cover the cost of the paper and printing. This specimen issue of "Heimdal" got into the hands of a young Danish man by the name of Olaf Riechel, who in 1885 became president of Dania.

Olaf Riechel was born in Copenhagen, the son of a shoemaker: he must have lost his parents early because he received his education at the Royal Orphan Home in Copenhagen. Riechel emigrated as a young man to America, but out of sympathy with France he enlisted in the Foreign Legion, was wounded and decorated, and then returned again to this country. Riechel had much praise for the first issue of "Heimdal" and informed Hertz that he had the means to start publishing it on a regular basis. Riechel then became owner and co-editor, and insisted that the paper be printed with Latin instead of Gothic type. At the same time, however, Riechel kept an office job and was too exhausted in the evenings to spend any time on "Heimdal". He also admitted that he was no journalist, and consequently he seldom wrote for the paper. Riechel's private funds were soon depleted and in order to survive he formed a stock company of which Emil Dreier was the head for a short time. A smaller publishing office was rented and Gothic type was put back into use again. "Heimdal" was at this time a four page paper with about 4000 subscribers.

Riechel sold "Heimdal" to William Harlev, as mentioned earlier, later bought it back from Harlev and sold it to Fritz Frantzen, a book dealer. After selling out to Frantzen, Riechel tried to get into politics on the Democratic slate for a minor office, but he was not successful. One morning the newspapers reported that Olaf Riechel had been killed by a train: his friends, however, adjudged him a suicide.

Fritz Frantzen, the new owner of "Heimdal", was a veteran Danish officer who had partaken in the last courageous stand of the small Danish army at Dybbol in

1864. Frantzen hired as his editor for "Heimdal" a Professor N. C. Frederiksen who had just recently arrived from Denmark. Not too long afterwards both "Heimdal" and Frantzen's bookstore were purchased by Professor Frederiksen, but on such unfavorable terms for Frantzen that he was forced into bankruptcy. The Danish Book-trade Association was one of the creditors but lost nothing because Frantzen later settled his account in full with them. Frantzen's financial failure was very likely the reason why he didn't receive the desired post of Danish Consul in Chicago.

Frantzen was elected president of Dania in 1871, 1882, and again in 1920. As an elderly man the stately Frantzen attended the Danish Trinity Lutheran Church where he always sat in the third pew directly beneath the pulpit. On April 19, 1921 Frantzen died suddenly in Dania while attending an Activities Committee meeting.

As the next owner of "Heimdal", Professor Frederiksen changed its political color: he wanted it to be a Democratic paper because he felt that the Democrats were for free trade. Frederiksen was a gifted man of many interests, always enthusiastic about new business ventures, but not keen about the dull but necessary details involved in running a newspaper. When "Heimdal" finally went out of existence Frederiksen started a semi-literary paper in English but that also was a failure. Full of big ideas, he established a real estate company which was supported by a financially sound railroad company. A large office was opened in Chicago, but with many employees who were not trained in business, namely: Clemens Petersen, the literary critic; Louis Pio; Poul Geleff. Witty Danes called this office, "Frederiksen's Hospital", which was a pun on the old Frederiks Hospital in Copenhagen. Frederiksen himself was constantly on the road, eating in cheap restaurants and sleeping in railroad cars. Nevertheless, he still dreamt of a fabulous career in politics and even thought he had a chance to get into the United States Senate! He finally lost his credit and all his dreams went up in smoke. Bankrupt, he left this country, went to Paris to write for some French newspapers, and finally ended up in Denmark. Here he wrote a book about Finland, caught pneumonia and died in 1905.

In 1875 Dania had 150 dues-paying members and over \$1200.00 in the bank. One successful social affair followed another, and Dania was *the* social club, membership in which was highly esteemed by all the Chicago Danes. Other societies were anxious to merge with Dania, but Dania wanted to remain independent and refused to affiliate with any other group.

The meetings during this period were held at several different locations: Kinzie and Desplaines Avenues; 17, 312, and 345 Milwaukee Avenue. The library was replenished, the members were eager to play an active role, and, in short, there was a pulsating and vibrant life in Dania during those years.

There were others than Markus Thrane who found religious and political asylum in Dania. In 1877 Louis Pio and Paul Geleff, two of Denmark's first Social-Democratic leaders, were bribed by the Danish police to leave their country after having served several years in prison. They came to Chicago and joined the Round Table clique where they met A. William Hansen (known as "Black" Hansen because of his luxurious growth of black hair, side whiskers, and mustache). This threesome, together with a Harald Brix, went out to Kansas where they founded a socialistic

colony. Their efforts to promote socialism among the Kansans failed, however, and they returned, without any money, to Chicago. Louis Pio was a resourceful man, however, and he soon earned some money by publishing a Danish cookbook and a Scandinavian-English dictionary and guide for young people. It was rumored that Pio had received a large sum of money from estate owners and wealthy men in Denmark as an inducement to leave that country. A heated controversy arose between Pio and Geleff as to the division of this payoff; Pio was accused of taking more than his fair share. Geleff published a pamphlet entitled, "The Pure, Undiluted Truth", which was a defamatory attack on Pio's character. Pio weathered the storm well, however, which was probably due in part to his many friends who stood by him, especially William Harlev who got him a job with the City as a draftsman. Later when times got bad, Pio's energetic wife did her share by giving piano lessons. At the turn of the century Pio became a real estate agent for a pioneer colony in Florida which consisted mostly of Scandinavians. Just as he had gotten a promising start in this new venture he contracted pneumonia in 1904 and died. It is of interest to note that on December 16, 1915, Mrs. Pio lectured in Dania, and that James P. Pio, evidently a son, was a member of Dania and passed away on December 1, 1955.

William "Black" Hansen, who was just mentioned, came from the ranks of the proletariat in Denmark. He was a typical Copenhagen workman with a journeyman's gait and manners. He was employed for a while in Bing & Grondal's warehouse where, being reliable and careful, he broke but few dishes. When Hansen came to America and met up with Louis Pio, the latter made him his secretary in spite of the fact that Hansen had much difficulty in writing Danish correctly. When his command of the language improved he sent newsy postcards to Henrik Cavling, the editor of "Politiken" in Copenhagen, and to Sophus Neble, owner of "The Danish Pioneer", in Omaha, Nebraska. Neble later became Hansen's son-in-law.

After the misadventure with the socialistic colony in Kansas, "Black" Hansen became an agent for Frederiksen's bookstores in various Danish settlements, but he had to give this up due to the lack of books. Hansen, a gifted man, had an excellent memory and could recite both Hippolyte Taine and Georg Brandes; he also was very much interested in the works of Dostoevsky, especially "Crime and Punishment".

Hansen was an effective and scintillating, if not fluent, speaker. At one particular banquet, when the Danish Minister was present, Hansen spoke of the admirable Danish immigrants who were not to be found in Chicago but out in the farming communities. Hansen's speech so impressed the Danish Minister that he arose and walked over and shook Hansen's hand. Being a sparkling conversationalist, Hansen intrigued both Consul Emil Dreier and the famous Danish poet, Holger Drachmann, who loved to chat with Hansen over a bottle of Burgundy when he was visiting Chicago.

To achieve success as a Danish writer among Danish immigrants seems to have been rather difficult. Writers and journalists within a small ethnic group, as the immigrant Danes were, have always had economically hard times, and one of their

main problems was just to exist and stave off starvation. This was the case with one of Dania's earlier members, Valdemar Borchsenius.

Born in Jutland, Borchsenius graduated from the University of Copenhagen, where he passed the difficult *examen philologicum* which was necessary for becoming an instructor in the classical languages at the Latin schools. Borchsenius came to America but immediately had difficulty eking out a living. He began as a grocery clerk in his brother's store in Wisconsin, and then came to Chicago where he tried to make use of his fine education by teaching languages, translating, and writing articles on literature and science for the local Scandinavian press. He supposedly also gave instructions in the necessary Latin terms to women training to be midwives. For awhile Borchsenius made translations for a German printer and proofread a small German Lutheran weekly, but for all his work he was poorly paid. To add to his dilemma, he was in poor health and could not take on any physical work.

In spite of all his troubles, Borchsenius found enough strength and inspiration to write a book of poetry, "Fra Oresund til Mississippi" ("From the Sound to the Mississippi"). In his critical articles, Borchsenius often attacked Professor Rasmus B. Anderson, Professor in Scandinavian languages and literature at the University of Wisconsin, whom he accused of plagiarism in his works on Norse mythology and history. Borchsenius charged that Anderson had taken a good deal of his material from the writings of the great Danish philologist and translator of Icelandic sagas, Professor Niels Matthias Petersen.

Borchsenius remained a bachelor throughout his life; as an elderly man he became engaged to a former milliner on Milwaukee Avenue but this romance didn't end in marriage. He lived out his twilight years in two small rooms which contained nothing but his long tobacco pipes and undisturbed dust. His friends finally obtained permission for him to enter the Danish Old People's Home, but he passed away in 1903 before he could move out to Norwood Park.

An equally hard fate was meted out to another of Dania's old members and a frequent guest at the "Round Table", Clemens (Klemmen) Petersen, the literary critic. Born the son of an Od County farmer in 1834, Petersen received his Master of Arts degree in 1857, wrote critiques and articles for "Faedrelandet" ("The Fatherland"), and in 1860 published a collection of theatrical criticisms called "Dramaturgical Criticism".

To Petersen the historical and national meant nothing, only the personal and actual had any validity. In his critiques on literary works he always stressed the spirit of the work and not the talent or genius of the author. Petersen was influenced in his thinking by Johan Ludvig Heiberg, Soren Kirkegaard, and the ethics of Hans Egede Schack. "The Fantasts", written by Schack, especially influenced him.

Petersen always suffered from the incongruity between his idealistic and real existence. He was unfortunately rather effeminate, and his literary style was affected and frequently overly dramatic. In 1868 he published a book about the poet, Oehlen-schlaeger, the leading thought of which was that Fear is the source of poetry. He was a teacher in the Copenhagen public schools but in 1868 was forced to leave his post and he came to America. Here he existed as a journalist, as an editor for "The Nave",

a trade publication for wagon-makers, and as a Nordic contributor to periodicals and encyclopedias. His literary articles, written both in New York, where he wrote for "Nordlyset" ("Northern Lights"), and in Chicago, gave him only a very meager income.

Petersen was a most talented, but most unhappy man, and he sought and led a very solitary and reclusive life in Chicago. Many wanted to help him; Bjornstjerne Bjornson, whose interest lay in sick and wounded souls, visited with Petersen whenever his travels brought him to Chicago, and even tried in vain to get Petersen to return with him to Norway. Petersen eventually became senile, and his friends made him return to Denmark where in 1918 he died, friendless.

Another society within the Danish colony, "The Danish Veterans' Society", was founded in 1876, and many Dania members were active in it. This group was composed of veterans from the wars with the German states in 1848-50, and the Austrian-Prussian War of 1864. These Danish veterans were a parade-loving group, and whenever the opportunity presented itself they marched down Chicago's streets with their band and banners. For awhile the growth of Dania was actually hampered by this new society. Those veterans who had drifted from Dania over to the Veterans' Society eventually returned to Dania mainly because of its library and Niels Uhrenholdt's bar.

The leader of "The Danish Veterans' Society", Major Alstrup, was one of Dania's most colorful members and its president in 1884. Born in Norway, Alstrup was a veteran of either the 1848 wars or the Prussian-Austrian War. How he acquired the title of Major is uncertain. Alstrup, a well groomed man with white hair and whiskers, was very Danish, and like so many of his countrymen, loved to give speeches. He was generally one of the main speakers at the various national festivals, and in his addresses he never failed to mention the Danish constitution and Frederik VII.

Major Alstrup loved parades. On these occasions his horse would wear small Danish flags behind its ears and have ribbons of Danish colors entwined in its tail. Alstrup would inspect his regiment of veterans, all of whom were proudly wearing their service metals, wave to his family who were at the window above his distillery, signal his band to begin, and off he'd go.

Alstrup's distillery was located in a building which formerly had housed the newspaper, "Heimdal". He specialized in liqueurs and knew the formula for a strong Swedish punch. It was supposedly from Alstrup's distillery that Hoffman-Schmidt, Gustav Mueller, and a Norwegian by the name of Schoyen, sent the following message to Emperor Napoleon III at the declaration of war between France and Germany in 1870: "Scandinavians in Chicago, gathered at a mass meeting, send greetings to the Emperor of France, with wishes for success and good luck for the Army of France". There is some question as to the correct location from where this message was sent. The present poeta laureatus of the Danish colony, Anton Kvist, states in his history of Dania that the message was sent from Dania, not from Alstrup's distillery.

The hope of getting Slesvig back into the Danish Kingdom had been fervently kept alive among the Chicago Danes, many of whom were from that territory which was lost in the Prussian-Austrian War of 1864. When Bismark, in 1878, deleted paragraph five from the Treaty of Prague, inserted there by Napoleon III, which said in effect that North Slesvig should be reunited with Denmark if the majority of its population by free vote should so desire, -this deletion crumbled the hope of the South Jutlanders. Speeches for the Slesvig cause ceased, and the disappointment was keen to the many Slesvig patriots such as Peter Noer.

Peter Noer, a Dania member until January 9, 1909, was an inspired spokesman for both the South Jutlanders and the Danish language. He was an extremely kind man, and a liberal contributor to all the Danish causes: he was said to always have had a Danish flag pinned on the inside of his shirt. Noer probably agreed wholeheartedly with Soren Kierkegaard: "I am happy to be bound to my mother tongue, tied as only few are, tied as Adam was to Eve because there was no other woman, tied because it has been impossible for me to learn any other language, and thereby impossible for me to be tempted to be arrogant and superior to my native tongue". Needless to say, many of the Dania members were of the same opinion.

Another important Danish politician was Niels Juul. Born in Jutland, he came to America as a young man. Like so many immigrants, Juul tried his hand at several occupations before going into politics; although a painter by trade, he became a publisher, a partner in a tailoring business, and was even active in a coal mining company.

Juul began his political career as treasurer in one of Chicago's municipal offices. He studied law in his spare time and succeeded in becoming a member of the Illinois Senate, -a noteworthy achievement for a son of Jutland. He introduced a real estate law, sponsored by the Chicago Real Estate Board, which bears his name. In 1912, Juul was put up as the Republican candidate for Congress and was elected. Congressman Juul was one of the speakers at the 12th Danish National Committee festival in 1920, held to celebrate the reunion of South Jutland with the rest of Denmark.

Juul was unquestionably a gifted man. He was a witty speaker, so clever and humorous that the Danish poet, Holger Drachmann, called Juul one of the wittiest after dinner speakers he had ever met. Juul was also the moving spirit behind the many song festivals that took place during the year of the World's Columbian Exposition. He undoubtedly was active in Dania's chorus as well as in "Harmonien".

Very little can be uncovered about Niels Juul from 1900 to his death in 1930. It was reported in September of '29 that he was in the Norwegian-American Hospital, and that he owed Dania money. His wife then informed the Society that her husband was non compos mentis, and that a guardian had been appointed to take care of his finances. At Dania's meeting on December 11, 1929, the secretary noted in his minutes that "he (Juul) can be assumed to be dead". His widow requested the death benefits from Dania's Sick Benefit Association, and these were paid her, minus Juul's unpaid dues. At the January 8, 1930 meeting, Dania's president mentioned Niels Juul's passing, but the members paid no special tribute to their politically successful late member.

Niels Juul, Jr. was also a member of Dania: he was also slow in paying his

dues. In arrears, he was dropped from membership in 1928, but evidently was readmitted for his death was announced at Dania on October 14, 1955.

Public offices and political positions of importance were not common among the early Danes in Chicago. With the exception of George P. Hansen and Niels Juul, who have been mentioned, the Danes seemed to lack the real knack and aptness for politics. This is generally true even at the present time. The Dane that stepped up the farthest on the political ladder was unquestionably Henry L. Hertz.

In 1872 Hertz emigrated to America together with Morris Salmonsens. He was associated for awhile with the newspaper, "Heimdal", as previously mentioned. He then entered the political arena and became Coroner in Cook County, and then rose to Secretary of Treasurer for the State of Illinois. Hertz ended his career of public service as an Internal Revenue Agent.

Hertz was President of Dania in 1880-81, and was a man of great influence in the Society. At this same time he was the undisputed political boss in large sections of Chicago. Hertz will be remembered for always wearing a red tie, -the sartorial symbol of Liberalism. When the "Joint Committee of the Danish Organizations", later called the Danish National Committee, held their national festival in 1909 in Riverview Park, Henry Hertz was the toastmaster, and gave an address entitled: "What is a Danish-American".

Some records indicate that Hertz turned Roman Catholic, but on his deathbed, on July 3, 1926, he did not ask for a priest but for a Danish minister. At the November meeting in 1927, an enlarged photograph of Henry L. Hertz was hung in Dania and unveiled at the 65th anniversary party. There were some members, however, who thought that there were other more deserving Dania personages who should have had that honor.

Dania celebrated Henry L. Hertz's 75th birthday with a banquet in his honor. Anton Kvist commented: "Only a few among Chicago's Danes have ever been paid so much honor, in such a grand style, so warmly and genuinely as has Henry L. Hertz on this occasion."

Henry Ockenholdt joined Dania sometime during the early 1880's, and became president in 1887-88, as well as in 1902-03. Ockenholdt was a handsome, dignified man, -a true-blue Dane, who was respected by everyone who came in contact with him. He and his charming wife, Bertha, made a very attractive couple, and their home, like Morris Salmonsens's, was a center of culture and social activities. Both Ockenholdts evidently came from the upper-class in Denmark, but here in America Henry Ockenholdt lost none of his dignity and nobleness because he was forced to clean and repair rugs for a livelihood.

Ockenholdt was determined that Dania should have new quarters. At a meeting in January of 1890, he proposed that Dania build its own home. In August of 1891, he informed the members that there was a building at 281 Milwaukee Avenue which could be had for \$12,000.00 with \$3,000.00 down: no action was taken on this. Ockenholdt didn't give up. On October 7, 1911, he suggested a special meeting to

discuss plans for Dania's future home. At the next meeting, President Peter Kristensen recommended the purchase of the property on Kedzie Avenue near Wabansia which could be had for \$4,000.00. The acquisition of this land was supported by Christian Nielsen, James Heyn, Martin Houlberg, Valdemar Bauer, C. H. C. Nielsen and Charles Wilde. The purchase deal went through for \$3,500.00, and Dania finally had a new location. When the construction of the new building started in 1912, the man who had the honor of turning up the first spadeful of dirt was Henry Ockenholdt.

On August 21, 1912, Henry Ockenholdt announced that he had begun writing the history of Dania. Fritz Frantzen, speaking for Dania, offered to assist Ockenholdt financially in this project but Ockenholdt insisted on bearing the whole expense himself. In May of 1913 Ockenholdt passed away, but oddly enough there is no mention of this outstanding Dania member in the Records (Rasmus Egeberg was the Recording Secretary) and one wonders whether the usual tribute given a deceased member was purposely omitted due to some personal animosities. Dania did pay for Ockenholdt's funeral expenses and did take care of his unpaid bills in connection with the History he was writing.

Mrs. Bertha Ockenholdt, as a widow, remained active in the Danish Trinity Lutheran Church which she had been a member of for fifty years. She died in 1930 at the age of seventy-five, as a result of severe burns received from an explosion of melted paraffin wax in her home. She was honored by the King of Denmark with the "Royal Medal of Reward in gold".

On September 5, 1891, Dania's Building Committee recommended the purchase of a building at 249-251 West Chicago Avenue for \$23,000.00. The initial down payment was \$3,000.00, and \$2,000.00 was to be paid within the following four years. In October Dania borrowed \$15,000.00 to enable it to close this deal.

The steward chosen for the West Chicago Avenue quarters was Ludwig Hoffenblad, who had joined Dania on December 19, 1889. Hoffenblad later (1913) became Dania's treasurer, and on his 75th birthday, in 1915, he was made an honorary member of Dania.

Ludwig Hoffenblad was made Dania's librarian in 1922, and served in that capacity until his death in 1925. As curator of the books, Hoffenblad was rather skeptical of the library's value to the members. In 1922, when 1477 books were in the library, but not being read, Hoffenblad suggested that since the popularity of the automobile had all but eliminated the reading of books, Dania's library should be discontinued. Charles Wilde vigorously opposed this, and suggested as an alternate solution that new and better books be purchased, thereby perhaps rekindling the reading habits of the members.

Hoffenblad celebrated his 83rd birthday in 1923, and two years later, on August 9, 1925, he passed away and was buried from Dania.

Several men who became outstanding and prominent members of Dania joined the Society between the years 1888 and 1892. Charles Ryberg and Peder

Kristensen were added to the membership list in 1888, Charles Wilde in 1889, Rasmus Egeberg in 1891, and Max Henius in 1892.

It is a Danish characteristic to be outspoken and to claim the individual's inalienable right to speak out and, if necessary, dissent. Dania's history is fraught with episodes where the members displayed this Danish trait. One such dissenter was Charles Ryberg. Born in Copenhagen in 1859, Ryberg came to Chicago in the early 1880's and became a Dania member on March 15, 1888. He was in and out of Dania at least twice, and was president for six terms in 1905-1907.

Ryberg was active in politics, and was for some time a member of the State Legislature. He supported Theodore Roosevelt and his "Bull Moose Party", and was even photographed with Roosevelt when the latter was campaigning in Chicago in 1912. When Roosevelt, as the Progressive party candidate, lost to Woodrow Wilson in that same year, Charles Ryberg also lost, and he consequently left politics to devote his full time and energy to his Danish interests.

Ryberg became one of Dania's most active members. When he was elected, in 1908, to the Danish-American Society as the delegate from Dania, however, he was not considered eligible due to the fact that Ludwig Hoffenblad was still the Dania delegate and refused to resign in favor of Ryberg. Hoffenblad belonged to the powerful Henry Hertz coterie, and Ryberg did not. In the February 28, 1908 issue of "Revyen" ("The Review"), Ryberg wrote a scorching article entitled: "Danish-American Society—Henry L. Hertz and His Lieutenants in Dania". Ryberg apparently touched on a sensitive spot, -Dania's internal power politics. He was given the choice of either apologizing or being suspended for three months. His love for Dania outweighed his dissenting spirit and he chose the apology alternative. His love for everything Danish remained with him until his death on May 24, 1927.

The peak of the influx of immigrants from Germany and the Scandinavian countries was reached in the 1880's and 1890's. Many of these Danish immigrants came to Chicago and became members of Dania. One of these men who joined was destined to become one of Dania's most outstanding and devoted members. This man was Charles L. Wilde.

Charles L. Wilde's name was entered on Dania's membership list on March 2, 1889. He became Dania's president in June of 1903, was made an honorary member on January 16, 1935, and passed away on August 24, 1938. Wilde was extremely active not only in Dania, but in the Danish Aid Society (whose bylaws he wrote), the Old Settlers Society (which he founded), and the Danish National Committee (where he served as Dania's first delegate).

Charles L. Wilde was the author of "Memorable Recollections of Dania: 1885-1935". This history was based on Dania's official records and was apparently difficult to write, for Wilde complained at a meeting in 1934 that he had tried in vain to locate certain necessary source material. Wilde's history is essentially a relation of events in Dania presented in a strict chronological order. As such it lacks the flowing poetic style of an Anton Kvist, yet it clearly reveals Wilde's deep affection for Dania. At a meeting in 1935, Wilde informed Dania that the Copenhagen publishing firm, Gyldendal, was not interested in publishing his Dania chronicle.

When the Danish poet, Holger Drachmann, passed away, Charles Wilde spearheaded the drive to purchase, as a gift from Chicago's Danes, a silver wreath which was to be placed on the poet's coffin in the crypt at Skagen, Denmark.

When not busy with his many Danish interests, Wilde served as secretary of the bricklayers' union in Chicago and held an administrative post with the Sanitary District. Wilde was a Republican and one of the founders of the Danish-American Republican League. His outstanding work during World War I, and his founding of Dania's Homeguards, will be touched on later.

When Dr. Max Henius became a Dania member in 1892, a man was added to Dania's roster who was destined to become one of the most eminent and celebrated Danish immigrants. Henius's notable contributions as an immigrant were not only his achievements in Chicago in the brewing industry, the water pollution problem and with the Public Library, but also his successful efforts in creating a tangible bond between America and Denmark, as evidenced by the Rebild National Park.

Max Henius was born in Aalborg in 1859, the youngest of Isidore and Emilie Henius's seven children. The language in his home was mostly German since his parents, of Polish-Jewish origin, had originally come from Northern Germany. Henius spent four years in the Aalborg Cathedral School, then went to the Polytechnic Institute in Hanover, Germany, where he met a Mr. Wahl from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a man who later became Henius's business associate. Henius then matriculated at Marburg University where he obtained a doctor's degree. After marrying the daughter of Dr. Emil Heiberg, who strongly objected to this union, Henius left Denmark in 1881 and came to Chicago.

Five years after his arrival in Chicago, Henius and Wahl opened their chemical laboratory where they analyzed the supplies and products used in the brewing and distilling industries. They advocated the use of pure yeasts, as taught by the famous Emil Christian Hansen of the Carlsberg Laboratories in Copenhagen. The two chemists published a monthly magazine, "Der Braumeister", and for this reason it is no wonder that the Germans considered Henius one of their own. He was made president of a German press club, and was the main speaker at the unveiling of a statue of Fritz Reuter, the famous Plattdeutsch humorist.

In 1891, the Wahl-Henius Academy of Brewing was quartered on South Water Street, and in 1901 it was moved to Fullerton Avenue where it became the Wahl-Henius Institute of Brewing. The same year saw the publication of the much used, "American Handy Book of Brewing, Malting and Auxiliary Trades". Several years later, Henius got the idea of having the Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, as honorary president of the Brewers Congress. Henius personally went to see President Taft in Washington D.C. and secured his approval. As Henius left the interview, the President called after him: "Goodbye, Gambrinus". (Gambrinus was the mythical Flemish king who supposedly was the inventor of beer).

According to Professor S. P. Sorensen of the Carlsberg Laboratories, Henius's greatest achievement was his successful fight against water pollution and typhoid in Chicago, and his relentless crusade for pure milk in this city. Henius publicly declared that Chicago's milk dealers were poisoning the milk by using the contaminated Lake

Michigan water. It was a day of great personal satisfaction when Dr. Henius, in 1900, saw the flotsam and debris in the Chicago River suddenly flow backwards.

The Mayor of Chicago appointed Dr. Henius to the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library in 1911. Henius became chairman in 1916, and served the Chicago library system intermittently for seventeen years. Many excellent innovations in the library system were introduced by Henius, but he didn't always work in complete harmony with the City Hall.

Dr. Max Henius has undoubtedly done more than anyone else to cement the ties between America and Denmark. His ceaseless efforts brought about the establishment of Rebild National Park and the annual celebration there of America's Independence Day. To many, Rebild was the crowning point of Henius's career. The Rebild saga, an interesting story in itself, will be mentioned later.

One of Dania's more contentious members was Valdemar Lund, who usually went by the moniker, "Langelund" (Long Lund). A handsome giant of a man, Lund was born in Nyboder in Copenhagen. Lund was a carpenter in the royal dockyards before traveling as a "naver" (from the abbreviation, "nav", of "Scandinav") in Germany and other countries. After a journey to Athens, Greece, he came to Chicago and joined Dania.

Lund belonged to the "opposition party" in Dania, especially when it came to questions relating to the Society's financial means and the building fund. Another object of his intense dislike was King Christian IX of Denmark, whom he considered a German, and who together with Bishop D. G. Monrad, he blamed for the loss of South Jutland. This was almost an obsession with Lund, and Dania decided it might be better to cancel his membership. Lund resigned, however, before he was ousted, but his resignation stemmed from another incident which occurred during the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.

During the Exposition, three trade commissioners from Denmark visited Chicago and were invited to a festive banquet in Dania. The affair ran smoothly until someone proposed a toast to King Christian IX. Lund reacted immediately: he stood up and violently protested the toast in no uncertain words. The banquet hall became a scene of pandemonium, with members and guests standing on the chairs and tables. During the fracas, the honored guests from Denmark slipped away, much to the embarrassment of Dania's officers. Afterwards, Lund was crestfallen and apologetic, and deeply regretful about his uncivil behavior: as a result, he resigned his Dania membership.

Another critic and crusader among Dania's members was Lauritz Olesen. Born on the island of Samsoe, he learned his trade as a coachmaker in Aarhus. It was here that Olesen came under the influence of the new political movement known as socialism. He emigrated to America, and at the age of twenty, joined Dania on August 6, 1867.

Olesen never lost his interest in socialism, and he became one of the founders of the Scandinavian Social Democratic Sick Benefit Association, most of whose mem-

bers were Danes. He also started "Arbejderen" ("The Worker"), as well as the Danish Worker's Singing Society. It's difficult to tell whether his main interest was singing or socialism, for he not only was a member of "Harmonien" but he founded and was president of the Danish Singer's Association of America. He unquestionably was the singing-est socialist in America at that time.

Lauritz Olesen's interests were thus not especially connected with Dania, but the Society recognized his contribution to the Chicago Danish colony and gave a banquet in his honor on his eightieth birthday, August 6, 1945.

Like Lauritz Olesen, Soren N. Nielsen was a member of Dania, yet had his main interests outside of the Society. Nielsen became a member on October 18, 1888, and served on a committee in 1890 to find a new home for Dania. In 1923, S. N. Nielsen was knighted by the King of Denmark, and Dania wanted to honor him with a banquet, but Nielsen declined the invitation and the banquet was cancelled. Being interested in young people, Nielsen frequently came to the anniversary banquets of the Danish Young People's Association, and to other outstanding affairs in Dania. When he passed away in October of 1948, nearly ninety one years in age, he was referred to as "the grand old man of the Danish colony in Chicago", and was highly respected for his success as a builder, his work for the Danish Trinity Lutheran Church, and his support and interest in Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa.

The interest which Soren N. Nielsen had in the Danish Church reflects another aspect of the Danish immigrant culture in America which is worth commenting on here. The immigrants from the cities and towns of Denmark, at the time of the great influx of Scandinavian immigrants, were mostly from homes which had little or no contact with the State Church of Denmark. The Church in Denmark leaned toward, "catered to" may be even more correct, the wealthy and privileged classes, and consequently the schism between believers and nonbelievers in Denmark was primarily the fault of the Church. Most of the immigrants that came to Chicago were artisans and craftsmen from those homes which were immune to the State Church. The farmers and peasants, generally a religious people, immigrated further onto the Great Plains and founded colonies and communities where the church was the center of all activities.

Many of the old, prominent Dania members were the artisans and craftsmen mentioned above, and were without any church affiliations, many even being confirmed atheists and free-thinkers. But they were, let us not forget, in America where the freedom to worship meant also the freedom not to worship if they so chose.

In order to dispell any notion that Dania is a churchless Society, it must be pointed out that many of Dania's fine members are also devout members of various churches.

In April, 1890, Chicago outbid all other American cities for the privilege of celebrating the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America in the "Windy City". Two delegates from Dania were chosen that year to the World's Columbian Exposition Committee, and Dania itself subscribed to ten World's Fair Bonds. In

1893 (Chicago couldn't quite make it in '92), Dr. Max Henius acted as one of the judges at the Fair, and several Danish honorary guests were feted in Dania. In June of that year the Chicago Danes celebrated the Danish Constitution Day by marching in a procession to the Fair grounds, led by Charles L. Wilde.

The years from 1893 to 1900 were ones of depression in America. Riots, hunger marches and threats of revolution plagued the country. The devastating economic panics during this time naturally affected Dania. The last seven years of the 19th Century were cheerless and uneventful ones for the Society.

Louis Henius, Max Henius's younger brother, came to Chicago in 1892 and joined the Wahl-Henius Institute as an instructor. He became a member of Dania, and at one time served on the Board of Directors. He soon tired of life in America, however, and returned to a literary career in Copenhagen where he became the owner of "Illustreret Tidende" ("Illustrated Times"), probably the most important Danish magazine of that time.

Jacob A. Riis, the Danish carpenter apprentice who became a renowned American social worker, was made an honorary member in Dania on February 17, 1904. In 1918 Dr. Max Henius formed the Jacob Riis League which represented some 25,000 Danish-Americans, and whose purpose it was to influence President Woodrow Wilson in favor of the Danish cause in Slesvig. In 1929, Dania contributed the largest donation (\$100.00) for the monument to Riis which was to stand in the Chicago park named for him. It was not until 1938 that this monument was unveiled in Riis Park at a ceremony poorly attended by the Chicago Danes. In 1949, a memorial festival was held in Riis Park to commemorate the 100th year anniversary of his birth.

The year 1908, when Emil Jorgensen was president, was a most important year in the history of Dania. It was in that year that the Danish National Committee was created in order to insure the perpetuation of the Danish Constitution celebrations. From that year on it was the Danish National Committee, not Dania, that was the center of Danish cultural activities in Chicago. Even though Dania's delegates were present at the Danish National Committee's meetings, which were generally held in Dania, most of the new organization's activities took place outside of Dania.

The first president of the Danish National Committee was Dania member, "Little Claus" Jensen. In the Dania rota since 1903, Jensen was also active in the Danish Brotherhood, and was this society's vice-president when he passed away in 1928. Claus Jensen was a born leader, and was the proud possessor of the Knight's Cross of Dannebrog. A year after his passing, a monument to him was unveiled in Memorial Cemetery.

The banker, Jens C. Hansen, succeeded Jorgensen as president in 1909-10. The building on Chicago Avenue was sold for \$20,500.00, and a few months later it was decided to rent the Northwest Hall on Evergreen Avenue, Banker Steensland's former residence, for forty dollars a month, -light, heat, and janitor service included.



DANIA SOCIETY Building Erected in 1912



DANIA LADIES SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1962

From left to right: Mrs. Signe Bang, Treasurer; Mrs. Anna Sorensen, Vice President; Mrs. Virginia Terp, President; Mrs. Theodore Munk, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Minna King, Recording Secretary.



World War I Veterans



World War II Veterans



DANIA SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1962

FRONT ROW, *left to right*: Hans Kirkegaard, Christ Brix, *Vice President*; John M. Peterson, *President*; Ernest A. Jensen, *Treasurer*; M. P. Madsen.
 BACK ROW, *left to right*: Thomas Nielsen, Niels Andersen, Oscar Terp, James F. Millerd, *Secretary*; Albert W. Clausen, Sam P. Sorensen, Knud L. Eriksen, John Dehr.



Dining Room *Club Floor*



Ladies Lounge *Club Floor*

CHAPTER III

1912-1942

When Peder Kristensen was elected as Dania's president in 1912, the chief executive post was not new to him. He had served as president in 1886-87, and had finished out Henry Ockenholdt's term in 1903. A cabinet maker from Struer, Kristensen was a good looking man, known for his sense of humor and his hearty laugh.

One of Peder Kristensen's main interests was the purchase of the Kedzie Avenue property, and in 1912 he shared the shovel with Henry Ockenholdt when ground was broken for the new Dania quarters. He was a proud president when, on December 29th, he presided over Dania's 50th anniversary party and was able to show off the new club rooms. Dania's debt was \$24,000.00 at this time, but the members' enthusiasm for the new club building, and their avowed support of Dania helped make the outlook a bright one. The ever generous Dania Ladies Aid Society pitched in and donated \$400.00 worth of furnishings for the new Dania headquarters.

Peder Kristensen's popularity was attested to by his re-election to the presidency in 1913 and 1914. Available Dania records indicate that no other man held this position for as many terms as he did.

Kristensen evidently agreed with Havelock Ellis that, "dancing is the loftiest, most moving, most beautiful of the arts", because one of his first proposals during his 1913 reign was to start a dancing school for the children of Dania's members. His idea won approval and actually became a profitable venture: a surplus of \$200.00 was the result of the first year's operation.

That Kristensen was popular not only with the men but with the women was shown by the fact that when his term as president expired, the Dania's Ladies Aid donated \$100.00 to Dania as a gesture of their gratitude to Peder Kristensen.

A banquet in Kristensen's honor was held in 1915, and again in 1938 when he had been a member of Dania for fifty years. The invited guests at that elegant dinner in 1938 were: Mr. and Mrs. Kristensen, Consul General R. Baumann, Carl Jacobsen, and the editors of the "Danish Pioneer", the "Danish Times" and the "Chicago Weekly". Christian Nielsen was the toastmaster, Agnes Andersen was at the piano, and Axel Andersen made the presentation to Peder Kristensen of a gold shield with the inscription: "1888—Dania's Thanks For 50 Years—1938". Dania's president, Hans

Eriksen, then presented Kristensen with an envelope brimming to the top with fifty silver dollars. A song written especially for the occasion by Carl Jacobsen was sung, and many speeches were heard before the party was over. Kristensen was so moved by the whole affair that he had much difficulty in expressing his profound appreciation.

Peder Kristensen naturally became an honorary member of Dania, and in 1940, on his 75th birthday, Dania honored him once again with a special luncheon.

The dedication ceremonies at Rebild National Park took place on July 4, 1912. This memorable day in Danish-American relations was the culmination of many years of planning and organizing by Dania's member, Dr. Max Henius.

The story of Rebild probably goes back to 1906. In that year a Danish-American Association was formed in Racine, Wisconsin, headed by former Dania president, Henry L. Hertz. Dr. Henius became an enthusiastic member of this group, and two years later while visiting Aarhus, Henius got the idea of holding an American-Danish meeting on that city's exposition grounds. The Danish-American Association endorsed Henius's idea, and made Henius the chairman of the Aarhus Day Committee. The result was that the first American Independence Day was celebrated in Denmark on July 4, 1909.

This first July 4th celebration in Denmark was a tremendous success. The efforts of both Max Henius and Carl Antonsen were well rewarded by the attendance of over 1100 Danish-Americans. Dr. Henius and his associates then began looking for a suitable location for future annual meetings. They found a most fitting site of over 200 acres in the Rebild Hills, south of Aalborg. An option was acquired on this land, money was collected in America, and in 1911 the land was purchased and named the Danish-American Park, then changed to Rebild National Park. A group of Americans formed the American Rebild Committee, and before the dedication of the park in 1912, this committee went to Marselisborg Castle outside of Aarhus and turned over the deed to King Christian X as a gift from Danish-Americans to their native land. The deed stipulated the rights of Americans to celebrate July 4th and other American national holidays in the park. The Chicago members of the committee were all outstanding Dania members: Dr. Max Henius, president; Carl Antonsen, secretary; C. H. Hansen, treasurer; M. Hemingsen, asst. secretary; C. H. Hasselriis, vice-president (Danish-American Association); and Henry L. Hertz. World War I and World War II interrupted the annual festivals, but in all the intervening years and after, the American July 4th has been celebrated in Rebild with a spirit and fervor seldom seen even in the United States. Denmark to this day is the only country beyond America's borders that commemorates our Independence Day.

Dr. Henius, like so many Danes, was a staunch admirer of the Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln. Henius felt that a monument to this great American president would be most appropriate in Rebild National Park. Out of Henius's fecund mind came the idea of the Lincoln Log Cabin. Designed by Chicago architect and Dania member, Axel V. Teisen, the log cabin became an American-Danish shrine. At the 50th anniversary festival on July 4, 1962, a plaque honoring the outstanding journalist and writer, Georg Strandvold, was added to the other mementos in the Lincoln Log Cabin.

Dr. Max Henius frequently gathered his inner circle of friends at "Horgdals-huset", his straw-thatched summer retreat in the Rebild Hills. Brusque and domineering in manner at times, Henius had his share of enemies who circulated unflattering rumors about him. His friends, such as J. Christian Bay and Tyge Lassen, editor of "Aalborg Amtstidende", always came to his defense. Lassen once wrote in his paper that Henius was, "a man whose intellect was governed by the fervor of his heart".

Henius was a member not only of Dania but also of Harmonien and the Kronborg Lodge #298. He was always grateful for Dania's greetings which were sent to him on numerous occasions, and he was especially appreciative of the painting of himself which Dania presented to him at a festival in honor of his 70th birthday.

Although Henius's origin and background were not essentially Danish, his life was one of a true Dane, and his name will forever be associated with the history of the Danes in America. Few Danes have been as deserving of his official reward, -the Medal of Merit in gold.

Joseph Jensen was elected president of Dania in 1915. He had become a member in October of 1902, and because he owned a woolen fabrics factory in Chicago he was known in all Danish circles as "Uldjyden" ("The Wool Jutlander": in Denmark, an "uldjyde" was an itinerant businessman who sold woolen wares made in the region around Herning). Jensen, born near Viborg, was a colorful character, full of vigor and vitality. This was evident even when, at the age of eighty-two, he was an indefatigable member of the Dania-Harmonien pilgrimage to Denmark in 1930.

Joseph Jensen was an astute businessman, and because of his financial acumen he was elected one of Dania's trustees and became an excellent watchdog over Dania's coffers. In March, 1927, Jensen stated in a report that the members of Dania had subscribed to \$20,000.00 in bonds, the proceeds from which were to be used as a down-payment on a first mortgage. Three years later Jensen pointed out that while there was no immediate concern about the installment payments or even a mortgage renewal, Dania had to be more serious in its desire and intent to retire its outstanding debt.

When Joseph Jensen celebrated his eighty first birthday, Dania presented him with a diamond studded gold chain as a token of appreciation for his many services. Jensen and his wife moved into a beautiful home in Florida, and both can be seen in a photograph included in the 1937 Dania Jubilee Book, the picture caption reading: "Our heartiest congratulations to Dania". Jensen spent his declining years in Florida, and passed away on December 31, 1943, nearly ninety four years of age. Jensen was not only an outstanding personage in Dania, but also in the entire Danish colony in Chicago.

On November 3, 1917, eight months after America's entry into World War I, a Soldiers' Committee was formed in Dania. This committee was comprised of representatives from both Dania and Dania's Ladies' Society, and had as its officers, Sophus Bock (president), Herskind Petersen (treasurer), and Charles L. Wilde (secretary). Packages of candy, cigarettes and tobacco were sent to Dania's soldiers, and this committee was responsible for sending a total of 543 packages abroad, plus 100

money orders of \$2.00 each. Charles Wilde personally wrote 600 letters to those soldiers who were serving overseas.

In March, 1918, Peter Bjerrehus replaced Sophus Bock as president of this committee. Fifty one soldiers were on the Roll of Honor, four of them Dania members, the rest being sons of members. Charles Wilde then proposed that an auxilliary be formed by the two societies, and be known as "Dania's Homeguards". It was shortly after this that the news came that William Bjerrehus and Harold Michelsen had been killed in action.

Ten months after the Armistice was signed, Dania held a "Welcome Home" party on September 11, 1919, at the La Salle Hotel. Henry L. Hertz was the toastmaster and Charles Wilde was the main speaker. Wilde's "Welcome Home, Boys!" was an eloquent patriotic tribute to the returning soldiers and to America. A song written by Ove Knudsen was sung by Poul Bjornskjold, and speeches were made by the Superintendent of Schools, P. A. Mortensen, for America; Danish Consul Falkenstjerne, for Denmark; Colonel John Glinnin, for the soldiers; Colonel Abel Davis, for the parents; Mrs. Oppenhagen, for the Homeguards; and finally by Colonel Henry Reilly, "One Country-One Flag". The singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" ended the official part of one of the biggest celebrations ever put on by the Danes in Chicago.

When "Dania's Homeguards" dissolved in 1919, Charles Wilde turned his attention to the administrative functioning of Dania. His idea for an Activities Committee was approved, and President Christian Nielsen appointed Dr. Peter Clemmensen, Soren T. Corydon, Christian Bottker, Henry L. Hertz, S. N. Nielsen and Charles Ryberg to this new committee. Charles Wilde also fathered the Committee for Dania's Welfare.

At the January meeting in 1919, President John C. Christensen, the able chief architect for Chicago's Board of Education, resigned, and the chief executiveship was taken over by Christian Nielsen, the local editor of the "Danish Pioneer". Here entered upon the scene probably the most controversial president in Dania's twentieth century history.

Christian Nielsen was born in Vivild, Hadsten, near Randers, on July 19, 1861. When he emigrated and settled in Chicago his two main interests were the "Danish Pioneer" and Dania. A good newspaper reporter who loved his work, Nielsen was the Chicago editor of the "Danish Pioneer" for thirty six years, and was known as "Pioneer" Nielsen. He was made a member of Dania on April 21, 1909, and although prominent in the Kronborg Lodge #18, of the Danish Brotherhood, his heart was always in Dania.

In 1918, Christian Nielsen came forth with the idea that a society for the young people of Danish parents should be formed. This concept became a reality in January of 1919 when the Dania Young People's Society was founded and its bylaws were approved.

Poker was apparently one of Nielsen's joys, for he was a strong proponent of the opinion that poker was not gambling. In March of 1920, Martin Houlberg, supported by Peder Kristensen and the new president, Fritz Frantzen, insisted that poker playing in the club rooms must cease as it was gambling; Christian Nielsen maintained that it was not. Again at a meeting in January of 1921, it was announced

that Dania's parlors were no place for a "royal flush".

In 1925, "Pioneer" Nielsen recommended that Dania become a closed membership and that each individual member have the right to sell his membership. Attorney-member, Peter B. Nelson, informed Dania that such an arrangement was not contrary to Dania's laws.

Christian Nielsen, also known as the "Runner" because he was always on the go, had a large insurance business which later was incorporated as Christian Nielsen & Son. He was a well known figure on North Avenue, and everyone seemed to know this tall man with the impressive shock of white hair. In 1937, Christian Nielsen was knighted, an honor which most Danes thought he well deserved.

Nielsen loved Dania so much that on his deathbed he requested permission to be buried from Dania Hall, a request which was of course granted. He died on June 10, 1938, and his funeral was probably one of the largest Danish funerals which Chicago had ever witnessed. Two ministers, Rev. A. W. Andersen and Rev. Videbeck, officiated, and both clergymen spoke well of the deceased, who in his last years had become a more or less regular churchgoer.

When Christian Nielsen was Dania's president in 1919, Rasmus Egebergh was the secretary. A member since 1891, Egebergh had recorded Dania's minutes since 1910. In September of 1919, however, Egebergh put down his pen and resigned, apparently because of a misunderstanding with President Nielsen. Christian Bottker, the editor of "Revyen" ("The Review"), protested Egebergh's resignation, and in his paper implied that Christian Nielsen had demanded Egebergh's abdication. Some members contended that Bottker had no right to publish this "malicious insinuation", and it was decided to invite Egebergh to the November meeting so that he could explain the real reasons behind his resignation. Egebergh didn't come to that meeting, but instead sent a letter which blamed Christian Nielsen for the whole affair.

Egebergh's endeavor as Dania's secretary left something to be desired, as far as Charles Wilde was concerned. Wilde bemoaned the fact that since Egebergh had become secretary, no mention was made in the records about the passing of Dania members. This criticism wasn't shared by too many members apparently, for Egebergh was re-elected again three times after Wilde had voiced his objection in 1916.

Christian Nielsen's brainstorm, the Dania Young People's Society, held its first meeting in March of 1919, at which time it expressed its appreciation of becoming a branch society of Dania. The purpose of this new group was social entertainment and spiritual enlightenment, and it had as initial members over one hundred young men and women of Danish descent.

In 1922, the Dania Young People's Society, not to be confused with the Danish Youth Association - "Ungdomsforeningen" - which was founded in 1889, received the free use of Dania's club rooms, but not the hall, and for this the new society's president, A. K. Mose, thanked Dania.

From the beginning, the Dania Young People's Society had to navigate a course which was as precarious as that between Scylla and Charybdis. In 1928 the Society's status was so tottery that a reorganization was required, and Dania was asked to assist in forming a new society. In July of that same year, Dania offered free

membership in Dania to members of the Dania Young People's Society who were in good standing. Those who entered Dania in this manner were Albert W. Clausen, Oluf Lindeboe, Elker R. Nielsen, and Frank C. Skallerup.

At the July 17, 1935 meeting, it was decided to again revive the Dania Young People's Society, but it wasn't until 1936 that this Society's new constitution was read by A. K. Mose and approved. Disagreement shortly thereafter arose between the two groups as to the use of the club rooms. The young people didn't relish being shunted off to the basement area, and consequently began invading the upper quarters which didn't set too well with the Dania members. The younger set was also reported to be mistreating the furniture, etc., and President A. K. Mose took it upon himself to correct this regrettable situation. It must be remembered that the Dania Young People's Society was comprised mainly of second generation Danes born in America, and it could hardly be expected that they would have the same reverence or intense love for things Danish that their parents did. These young people did recognize their limitations due to their youth, and they requested that an older member of Dania be present at their meetings in the capacity of an adviser: Axel Andersen was their choice.

A year after the end of World War I, a South Jutland Committee was formed. It was sponsored by Soren T. Corydon, a dry goods entrepreneur, who together with his brother had one of the largest business establishments around North and California Avenues. Corydon's committee collected over \$800.00, and it was later made known that the central committee had forwarded some \$50,000.00 in funds and clothes to South Jutland.

Soren Corydon, due to his business interests and his affiliation with the now non-existent St. Ansgar's Church, was not too active in Dania, although he did serve on several committees during the time he was a member. Corydon was made a Knight of Dannebrog for his invaluable aid to Slesvig. He passed away on October 8, 1952.

The entertainment fare in Dania during its lean years (1895-1920) was rather meager. There just wasn't enough extra money in the till to hire many professional entertainers and lecturers. The Danish poet, L. C. Nielsen, spoke in Dania in 1913; Mrs. Lois Pio, the wife of former member Louis Pio, lectured in 1915; Songster Poul Bjornskjold gave a concert for the benefit of the Soldiers' Fund in 1918; and in 1919, Dania member Otto Christensen, son of former President Adolph Christensen, arranged for a series of Wednesday night lecturers which proved to be popular.

The Activities Committee, after much disagreement, sponsored two "Oda Nielsen Evenings" during 1920. The first Oda Nielsen performance was a \$700.00 success, and the second one, which was an evening of songs for Danish children, brought in \$460.00.

When Carl W. Larsen was president of Dania in 1920 and 1921, he proposed some radical changes to Dania's bylaws. The gist of Larsen's thinking was as follows:

The officers of Dania would consist of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer; and twelve directors (the directors would elect the vice-president) who, with the exception of the vice-president, would constitute the board of governors which would manage the society. Other changes involved the various committees, the time of year the meetings should be held, etc.

In 1922, when Charles P. Ditlefsen was elected president, it was decided to do away with Larsen's new bylaws and revert back to the old ones. Ditlefsen was an active member of Dania. Interested in both music and the theater, he was instrumental in Dania sending congratulations to composer P. Marinus Poulsen when the latter received a \$1,000.00 prize at the Chicago Theater for one of his musical compositions. Ditlefsen also was responsible for arranging the performance which actor Adam Poulsen gave at the Garrick Theater in October of '23. Following the performance, which netted Poulsen close to \$1,000.00, a reception was given for the touring Poulsens in Dania.

A member of Dania since January 5, 1915, Charles P. Ditlefsen suffered a fatal heart attack in the latter part of 1935.

Jens Christian Jorgensen followed Ditlefsen as Dania's president. Jorgensen was a popular man, well liked for his good spirit and his liberal points of view. Dania's flag flew at half-mast when Jorgensen passed away in June of '37.

During Jorgensen's reign in 1923, Louis Hansen passed away. The flags should have flown at half-mast for this old honorary member of Dania, but the flag lines were broken. It was at this time that flag conscious B. Wendt demanded that the flags being disrespectfully used as stage curtains be removed immediately.

Adolph Nielsen took over Dania's rudder in July of '24, and held it until January '26. Many improvements to the building were effected during this period, part of the expense being met by increasing the initiation fee from \$10.00 to \$25.00. Even though expenses ran high during these years, Nielsen left office with a surplus in the treasury. Possessed with the ability to handle money matters, Adolph Nielsen was Dania's treasurer until his death on June 3, 1945.

In March of 1927, Rasmus Egebergh, the former Dania scribe and an honorary member since 1924, was chosen to write a short history of Dania. In July, 1928, he delivered the manuscript (it covered Dania's history up to 1885), to the Board of Directors, and complained that the official records for the following years couldn't be found. In September, the Directors declared that Egebergh's history was incomplete because it omitted the accomplishments of the Building Committee and the Activities Committee.

Egebergh never had an opportunity to finish his history, for in October of '29 he parted with life and was buried from Dania. His manuscript on Dania's history was one of the sources of later histories. Charles Wilde even accused Anton Kvist of copying Egebergh's work. It is impossible, of course, to write about Dania without leaning heavily, as this writer has done, on the research work which others have done in the past. As is true with many of the Dania histories written years ago, the Egebergh manuscript is now nowhere to be found.

During September, 1927, two loyal Dania members, Niels Tandrup and Carl

Nielsen, passed away. Tandrup, a member since 1888, had the distinct honor of being a Dania member longer than anyone else at the time of his demise. He served on Dania's Board of Directors in the early 1900's, and his devotion to Dania was evidenced by the fact that he was buried from Dania.

Carl Nielsen joined Dania in 1893, became secretary in 1896, and served as president both in 1899 and 1901. A conscientious and devoted Dania member, Nielsen died of a heart attack while on the "elevated".

Hans Christian Eriksen was elected Dania's commander-in-chief at the January meeting in 1928. A smallholder's son from the Vejle region in Jutland, Eriksen arrived in America in 1911 and began working as a carpenter. Six months later, to everyone's amazement, he started his own construction company, Thorgersen & Eriksen, and within a short period of time was considered a well-to-do builder.

In 1921, together with his business partner Carl Thorgersen, Hans C. Eriksen joined Dania. For many years thereafter Eriksen was one of Dania's most popular, active, and prominent members.

In the same year in which he became Dania's helmsman, Eriksen was host to the members of the Dania Society of California who, together with some Nevadan Danes, were on their way to Denmark. The guests from the west were wined and dined in the best Dania style, and they promised to trumpet the news in Denmark that the Dania Society of Chicago really lived up to its name and reputation.

Later in the year 1928, a committee was formed to plan the Dania-Harmonien pilgrimage to Denmark which was to take place during the summer of 1930. Hans C. Eriksen was chosen director of this tour, and was very instrumental in making it a tremendous success.

Eriksen was evidently not a man to be crossed, for in the fall of 1932 he resigned as an officer of Dania due to a disagreement with the steward. His resignation was accepted at the November 9th meeting, but the records do not give any additional explanation for his abrupt action.

George Peter Jensen, the man whose energetic and patriotic efforts during World War II produced such remarkable results, became Dania's president in 1929. He was re-elected to the pilotship of Dania in 1930, and in this capacity naturally played a prominent role in the Dania-Harmonien trip in that same year.

On August 27, 1930, George Jensen announced the passing of Soren J. Hejberg and Carl Christensen. Hejberg, a financial victim of the depression, is remembered for his generous gifts to the Memorial Park at Sondermarken, to which Dania had also contributed in 1925. Hejberg is also remembered for his help in sending a deathly ill tuberculosis patient, member Sofus Sorensen, back to Denmark: Hejberg paid for the railroad fare to New York and for a separate cabin for Sorensen on board ship. In 1926 Dania had given Sorensen a gift of over \$250.00, -another example of Dania's willingness to help fellow countrymen in need.

George P. Jensen was one of the staunch supporters of the move to introduce

the English language into Dania as the official language. He later became one of the first Dania members to publish a book written in English, this being his opus on Chicago entitled: "Historic Chicago Sites" (1953—Creative Enterprises).

When "Historic Chicago Sites" was published, a flier about the book and author was distributed in order to stimulate sales. It read: "Having lived all his life in Chicago, George Peter Jensen is well qualified to write about the city. When only a boy, he loved the city's fascinating history, and its strange and wonderful surroundings. He vowed that one day he would write a book that would depict the growth of this great city. While in the 7th grade, he had to leave school and go to work. But by reading and home study, and by attendance at evening school, he was able to pass a college examination. During the first World War he was appointed by President Wilson as a public speaker. Later he applied for admission to an officer's training camp, and was assigned to Camp Fremont, California. The author was a successful business man and makes his home in Chicago. He has traveled extensively, in Central America, Asia and Europe, and has lectured on these travels and written articles about them. He was past president of the Rebild National Park Board. He was an emissary from President Hoover to the King of Denmark, and has been active in promoting a better understanding between Denmark and the United States."

George Peter Jensen was that exemplary type of immigrant who loved his adopted city of Chicago as deeply as he did his hometown in Denmark. He was a Knight of Dannebrog, -quite deservedly, and he passed away on February 10, 1956.

Dania entertained its members well during the Twenties. In 1921, Dr. Max Henius procured as a lecturer, Nis Nissen, the outstanding South Jutland politician and member of the Prussian Landtag; Vocalist Christian Schroeder gave a concert to too few people, but singer Johannes Herskind, assisted by actress Karen Stevensen and Mrs. Alfa Petersen, gave a concert which netted him over \$400.00.

Dania threw a party in April, 1923, in honor of the American Minister to Denmark, His Excellency Maurice Egan; Ove Knudsen gave one of his inimitable performances exactly one year later; in July, '24, Danish opera stars Peer Bjorn and Ingvard Nielsen were feted at a luncheon; and later that year Rev. A. Th. Dorf spoke at a luncheon which was given in honor of Harmonien.

Prince Aage of Denmark lectured in Orchestra Hall on March 2, 1926, and afterwards attended a supper in his honor at Dania. A "Hard Times Party" two months later was such a smashing success that the three Dania groups, -Dania Ladies' Society, Dania Young People's Society, and Dania, vowed to have a carnival party each year thereafter.

Dr. Mikkil Hindhede, the renowned dietician and president of the Food Education Society (London), spoke to Dania's members about their favorite subject, -food, in January of 1928. Two months later Dania entertained the 250 Danish guests from California and Nevada.

In October 1928, a "Denmark Committee" had been formed in Dania, with

Dr. Max Henius as chairman, for the purpose of planning a joint trip to Denmark with Harmonien. It was decided to make this excursion in June of 1930, and to charter a Danish boat and visit the coastal and inland towns of interest. It was also decided to bring along a motion picture of Danish-American life in Chicago to show to the inhabitants of the various Danish towns to be visited.

Both George Peter Jensen, who was Dania's president in 1929-30, and H. Christian Eriksen, who was the official director of this trip, deserve much of the credit for making the Dania-Harmonien tour an inimitable experience for all of those who went along. The following brief account will serve to illustrate why this trip was so successful.

The ocean liner, "Hellig Olav" (American-Scandinavian Line), docked at Copenhagen's East Pier on May 30, 1930, and more than two hundred Dania and Harmonien members disembarked. The tour itinerary allowed the first eleven days to be "open", and the official tour did not commence until June 11th. On that day Harmonien gave a concert in Tivoli's concert hall under the direction of Joel Mossberg. Maestro Schnedler Petersen opened the musicale with the "Overture to Elverhøj", followed by the Danish national anthem. The opera singer, Johannes Fons, concluded with a toast—"Long Live the Faithful Danish-Americans".

The following day, the chartered Danish steamer, "Vistula", brought the group to Rønne. Here they were welcomed by County Sheriff Koefoed, after which they visited Dueodde, Nekso, Paradis Højene and Ekkodalen. Harmonien then gave a concert, attended by two thousand people, at the "Almindinge Pavilion" in Rønne, for the benefit of the county library.

A few days later the visiting "firemen" from Chicago made an auto trip through Lolland-Falster, stopping at the manor houses at Pederstrup, Bandholm, Knuthenborg and Maribo. After a festive dinner back in Nakskov, a concert was held at the Nakskov Theatre.

The following day, the "Vistula" arrived at Kallundborg. Mayor Frederik Andersen extended a hearty welcome, and Dania's president, George P. Jensen, responded in an equally enthusiastic speech in which he brought greetings from President Herbert Hoover and the 200,000 Danish born citizens of the United States. A hike through the town was followed by an auto trip to Dragsholm Castle, and to Faarevejle Church where Mary Stuart's lover, the Earl of Bothwell, is buried. After lunching in Nykøbing the group drove to Sjaellands Odde and then back to Kallundborg.

The next stop was Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace, Odense. Consul Kruuse and the chief of the Tourist-Association, A. Kjaer, received the tourists. Museums were visited in the forenoon, as well as an excursion to Langesø Castle. The afternoon was spent exploring the many interesting places in Odense itself. In the evening a large public festival was held in "Fruens Bøge". Harmonien performed, and the eventful day ended with fireworks and dancing.

After a few days of rest on the idyllic Svenborg Sound, the group proceeded on June 19th to Aabenraa in South Jutland. The city was decorated with Danish and American flags, and patriotic feelings ran high since the Slesvig cause had always been close to the hearts of the Chicago Danes. Mayor Fink spoke eloquently, as did H. P. Hansen, the leader of the South Jutlanders, when he received the group at "Folkehjem". In the afternoon a trip was made down to the Border, and to the national shrine

of the Dybbol fortifications where the small Danish army, in 1864, bravely resisted the overpowering Prussian invaders.

A visit was made the following day to the beautiful island of Als. At "Faergegaarden" in Mommark, where lunch was served, George P. Jensen spoke in English about President Woodrow Wilson's deep interest in South Jutland. When the "Vistula" hoisted anchor and began steaming out of the harbor, the lovely summer evening was charged with much emotion, and never had "Der er et yndigt land . . ." been sung with more feeling.

The "Flensborg Avis", on June 25th, carried an interview with Christian "Pioneer" Nielsen. The visiting journalist boasted that the "Danish Pioneer", with its circulation of over 50,000, was the largest Danish-American newspaper in the United States. Nielsen also informed the "Flensborg Avis" that of the more than 20,000 Danish-Americans in Chicago, 5,000 were from Slesvig; and that many of these had attained much prominence in their adopted country, -such as the Corydon brothers, the Bendsen brothers, and Jens Jensen, the famous landscape architect. Jensen was one of the three men from Slesvig who had seen President Wilson in order to persuade him not to forget South Jutland at the peace conference table. Nielsen was asked which segment of the Danish immigrants in America had fared the best: he answered that the farmers had prospered more than the business and professional people, and that the Danish craftsmen, especially in the building trades, were more capable and better trained than their American counterparts.

Aarhus was the next stop on the Dania-Harmonien itinerary. Oddly enough no official reception was given the group upon their arrival. The city officials, however, hurriedly arranged a dinner party at "Friheden", a pavillion in the woods. Two hundred people turned up, and the dinner was a memorable occasion mainly because of the speech by seventy two year old James Skallerup (from Thisted), a Chicago cigar manufacturer.

The next day, a Sunday, the Chicago troupe assembled in Marselisborg Memorial Park. Among the many speeches was one by Caspar H. W. Hasselriis of New York, who said: "From without we only see the best, -what is outstanding in Denmark. We idealize the old country. But at every return we have found that what we saw and came across did not disappoint us. To the Danish emigrant certain qualities, typical of the Danes, are discernible, -such as moderation, humor, plainliness, cordiality, thoroughness, and faithfulness. These are moderate virtues, many will say, but these virtues are also small keys which will open big gates. God bless Denmark." Harmonien sang in the evening, directed by the Falstaff-like Joel Mossberg, and "Wool" Jensen was, in spite of his eighty two years, the first one on and the last one off the dance floor.

After stopping briefly in Meriager, the "Vistula" moved slowly through the fog-shrouded Rander's Fjord. At Hobro, the visiting Danish-Americans were received by the largest crowd yet encountered on the trip. In Anton Kvist's poetic terms, -it was as if Hobro had bid them welcome with a bouquet of living flowers. The dinner banquet in Hobro was one of the most unforgettable of all the many memorable dinners given in honor of the Chicagoans. This was mainly due to a spirited speech by Dr. Max Henius: he pointed out that Hobro had had an unusual attraction for him from his earliest years, for it was here that he had had his first love tryst and had spent many wonderful days. Henius then stressed the fact that Hobro had a yeast factory,

-probably the largest in Skandinavia, which gave everything and everyone in Hobro a tremendous lift. And then neighboring Aalborg with its schnapps distilleries -this certainly gave Hobro an atmosphere of good spirit, conviviality, and cheer, for what better combination is there than a good beer and a schnapps!

On the morning of July 4, 1930, the "Vistula" arrived in Aalborg. The reception had an especially warm flavor, and Hans Christian Eriksen presented the Mayor of Aalborg with a silver shield which was to be hung in the Aalborg City Hall as a memento of the Dania-Harmonien visit. George P. Jensen spoke on behalf of the entire group when he stated that Hans Christian Andersen's "I Danmark er jeg født . . ." expressed the true feelings of all the Dania-Harmonien members. The only sad note in Jensen's address was the reference to the fact that Aalborg was to be the last stop before the long return voyage to America.

The afternoon celebration in Rebild National Park attracted thousands of people. Ten American state flags, including the Illinois flag, were donated to Rebild. A luncheon in Dr. Max Henius's summer cottage, "Horgdalshuset", preceded the celebration and two prominent men, Dr. Henry Leach and Dr. Knud Rasmussen, addressed the group. Dr. Leach spoke in Danish on "Dannebrog and the Stars and Stripes", going into the history of the two flags, and pointing out that the stripes of the American flag could be attributed to Captain Markø of the Philadelphia Light Cavalry who, during the War of Independence, gave his regiment a flag with thirteen stripes in one corner: in this manner, therefore, the Danes could be said to have placed their mark on American life from the earliest days of its existence.

Dr. Leach then paid tribute to Dr. Max Henius, the "Father of Rebild National Park", and to Niels Poulsen, the "Father of the American-Scandinavian Foundation". Leach went on to say that the Danish influence in America was an aesthetic discipline, -an expression of dynamic worship of beauty. Optimism and generosity are two of America's virtues which are appreciated by the Danes, and America in turn values the aesthetic thoughts which are the fundamental spiritual characteristics of Danish culture.

Dr. Knud Rasmussen, the well known explorer, then spellbound the audience with his poetic-historic explanation of the age-old urge to make discoveries and participate in exciting experiences such as the adventure of immigration. Rasmussen then spoke of the often neglected explorer, Vitus Bering, whose discoveries were, according to Rasmussen, some of the most extraordinary feats which the world has ever witnessed.

The evening festivities of the July 4th celebration took place in "Kilden". The former Danish Premier, J. C. Christensen, and the Finance Minister, J. Bramsnaes, both spoke.

On August 6th, a farewell banquet was held at "Wivel's Restaurant". George P. Jensen called attention to the democratic way of life in both Denmark and America, -a way of life which made people content and happy. Hans Christian Eriksen, visibly moved by the occasion, then made his farewell speech. The following day the ocean liner, "United States", weighed anchor. With flags waving, and everybody singing, "Der er et yndigt land . . .", the members of Dania and Harmonien shouted a last "hurrah" for Denmark. And so ended an unforgettable experience for many of the members of Dania and Harmonien, -an experience which would be indelibly impressed on their memories forever.

Both Charles L. Wilde and Dr. Max Henius were keenly interested in the preservation of records and the establishment of archives. At the June meeting in 1930, Wilde recommended that Dania construct a fireproof vault in the basement for its official records and other matters of literary value. Wilde complained that, "now a person runs around, looking for them, and sometimes they cannot be located". (This is as true in 1962 as it was in 1930). Wilde's idea was approved, but no action was ever taken on it.

Dr. Max Henius was more successful than Charles L. Wilde. The City of Aalborg owned Sohngaardsholm Manor which was located on the outskirts of the city. This manor had been built by Max Henius's father, sold several times, and then finally bought up by the City of Aalborg. Henius got the idea that this old manor house would make an excellent home for emigrant literature and other documents. With his customary energy and pertinacity, Henius persuaded the Aalborg City Council to donate the manor as an archive for emigrant literature. In 1932, the Dan-American Archives were opened, and Henius remarked, "My heart is in the Archives", for the building which housed these writings and documents had at one time been Max Henius's home.

In 1931, Jens Agger succeeded George P. Jensen as Dania's president. Agger, a reserved, successful businessman, (president of Chicago Rawhide Company), first became active in Dania in 1925 when he was made a member of the Building Committee and the House Committee. In that same year he was Dania's delegate to the Danish National Committee, and two years later was made an auditor.

During Agger's reign, the following bylaw changes were made: A former member could be readmitted to Dania for \$10.00, provided he received a majority vote and owed no back dues from the time of his previous membership period. A former member who had been expelled because of unpaid dues could not rejoin until those arrears were settled. Also decided was that no member who was over sixty years of age when becoming a member could be eligible for the \$75.00 death benefit granted by Dania.

Adolph Nielsen, the treasurer during Agger's administration, received approval from the members to monthly set aside \$100.00 to form a sinking fund which would be used to retire the mortgage debt. The economic depression also made itself felt in Dania's rule concerning the membership initiation fee. This was temporarily reduced to \$15.00, and the steward's (Christian Larsen at this time) commission on rental income from the hall was cut to 10%.

Jens Agger was nominated for the presidency again in 1932, but he declined, and Paul Wester was voted into the post of command. Agger nevertheless remained very active in Dania's affairs. He served on many committees, such as the Dania Welfare Committee and a membership drive committee in '34. He did find time for a trip to Denmark, and before departing treated the members to beer and sandwiches after the January 9, 1935 meeting. Although born in America, Agger made a speech in Danish in which he stressed the importance of harmony and conviviality in Dania now that it had so many new members.

Because of his recognized business acumen, Agger was made a member of a committee whose function it was to seek a reduction in the interest rate being paid on

Dania's outstanding debt. In 1935, Agger was secretary of the Bondholders' Committee, and it was at this time that he offered to pay half of the delinquent taxes for 1930 if other members would pay the other half: Soren Sorensen and Andrew Karkow co-operated.

At the General Assembly on January 25, 1939, Agger, as a member of the Law Committee, recommended certain changes be made in the protocols concerning changes and amendments made to Dania's bylaws. In the same year he helped beautify the club rooms by donating enough leather to cover the furniture, and he and his wife graciously hosted the Dania members at the Waltonian Hotel at Fox Lake.

At the April meeting in 1942, Agger gave a detailed report on the activities of the Rear Squad. A few weeks later Dania sent flowers to the Aggers who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on May 12th. Agger ended his service on Dania's various committees when, in 1942, he became a member of the Library Committee.

Dania had a commendable Christmas custom of remembering the unfortunate Danes at the Oak Forest Home with Danish sandwiches and small money gifts. At such a Christmas visit in 1932, the members found 87 year old Christ Buck who claimed to have been a Dania member in 1868 when the Society was located at Canal and Kinzie Streets. Christmas time was not the only time Dania remembered the old inmates at Oak Forest: in 1953 John Eriksen, the caterer, furnished the refreshments at an Easter visit to the Home.

During the Prohibition era (1918-1933) strict orders were given all members not to violate the 18th Amendment. For some time no one except the officers of Dania were allowed to enter the kitchen or buffet room. At one time during those fifteen long, dry years it was rumored that Dania might have to be closed because it was not obeying the federal law: the officers had to be present every evening in the club rooms to see to it that all members abstained from the use of intoxicants.

When the Prohibition Amendment was repealed in 1933, the parch-throated members celebrated on April 8th with a predominantly liquid luncheon which lasted for five hours and concluded with pickled herring and black coffee. Not only did this luncheon serve to welcome Bacchus back to the American scene but Dania's treasury was \$170.00 better off.

Chicago's spectacular fair, celebrating "A Century of Progress", opened on April 29, 1933. Four years before that, Dr. Max Henius had been appointed chairman of the Danish World's Fair Committee, but resigned from that post, remarking: "I could see that as far as Danish-American participation in the World's Fair is concerned, it will never be a success". Attorney Peter B. Nelson, a member of Dania, succeeded Max Henius as chairman. Henius later changed his mind and became very instrumental in placing the Danish exhibits in the Museum of Science and Industry.

The Chicago Tribune, in an article which appeared in 1933, stated that "Denmark's decision to participate is largely due to the untiring efforts of Dr. Max Henius . . . and it is mostly due to his activities that the Danish government has granted 50,000 kroner (about \$8,000.00) to pay for a display of Danish scientific exhibits at the Fair".

It was not long afterwards that the tragic accident occurred. While driving on a winding road from Hobro to "Hørgdalshuset" with his daughter Gerda, Henius's car was hit head-on by another car which was attempting to pass a horse and wagon. Henius was severely injured, and he and his daughter were rushed to a hospital in Aalborg. He lingered here for some time, but then pneumonia set in and finished the "Old Eagle" (his aquiline profile earned him this sobriquet) on November 15, 1935.

The City of Aalborg gave Max Henius a public funeral, and his passing was mourned throughout Denmark. His ashes were sent to the family burial place in Chicago. Henius was not a religious man, but as Dr. J. Christian Bay said in his eulogy at the memorial services at the University of Chicago Chapel, Henius had the greatest respect for the Church and regarded it as our greatest cultural asset. In 1959, on the 100th anniversary of Max Henius's birth, memorial services were held at the family tomb. Speeches were made by Dr. J. Christian Bay and Aksel Nielsen, and a large wreath was placed on his grave. Dr. Max Henius was certainly one of Dania's most famous members, and the love and gratitude felt by all Danes for Dr. Henius will never die.

At the regular Dania meeting in November of 1933, Anton Kvist was expelled from the Society because of nonpayment of dues. Although this action was in accordance with Dania's rules, to many it seemed like harsh treatment of a member whose literary accomplishments were incontestable. This ouster of Kvist was actually the result of various personal antipathies towards Kvist which had existed within Dania for some time. The author of this Centennial History, having no direct knowledge of Kvist's relationship with Dania, must rely on Dania's Records for the facts.

Anton Kvist, the Danish colony's poet laureate, has long been celebrated both here and in Denmark for his beautiful, inspiring poems and songs. Kvist is an example of a gifted man who is happy only when he has the pen in hand and is writing in Danish. Writing in Danish for American Danes is not only a thankless job but a highly unremunerative one. Yet there is nothing but praise, among discerning readers, for Kvist's writings, such as, "Lurerne Kalder," "Danske Streng," "Sange fra Vejen" and "Den gamle Pioner fortæller."

Kvist had his antagonists in Dania. Christian "Pioneer" Nielsen was one, and Charles L. Wilde was no Kvist booster. Wilde didn't mention Kvist too often in his "Memorable Recollections of Dania," and when he did, it was in an unsympathetic way.

In September of 1921, Kvist recommended the establishment of a Memorial Archives which would contain material of historical interest to Dania. There was no affirmative action on this intelligent suggestion; nor was there any action taken on a similar proposal advanced by Charles L. Wilde at the June meeting in 1930.

There was a movement within Dania in 1926 to make Kvist an honorary member. Kvist himself questioned the honor because Dr. Max Henius, more deserving of the honor according to Kvist, had not been granted that honor by Dania. Some anti-Kvist

members agreed wholeheartedly with Kvist that he didn't deserve the honor, and at the following January meeting, President C. M. Christiansen announced that no proposal for making Kvist an honorary member was in order.

Kvist apparently had his followers in Dania too. On December 1, 1928, the members voted to pay Kvist's unpaid dues as an expression of Dania's appreciation for the beautiful song Kvist had written for the anniversary festival. Again in September of 1930 it was voted to carry Kvist until December 31, 1931.

C. P. Rubardt, in May of '29, inquired about the "Dania History" which was being written by Kvist. The author informed the meeting that he was working on it, and after receiving an honorarium of \$100.00 he promised to submit his manuscript for review as soon as it was finished.

On July 13, 1932, Kvist suggested that his "History of Dania" be printed in 1,000 copies, the cost being \$350.00. The members, however, voted to start a subscription list before going ahead with the actual printing. Kvist then read sections of his history covering the pre-Dania period from 1837-1862.

The minutes of the May 10, 1933 meeting stated that Dania purchased Kvist's manuscript for \$250.00. At a later meeting in May, Kvist turned over his manuscript to President Christ Jorgensen, under the condition that Jorgensen would not let it out of his sight. Kvist also claimed that he had received only \$125.00 for his writing, not \$250.00. A committee then evaluated Kvist's manuscript and reported back that the history only went as far as 1875: Charles L. Wilde consequently felt that Kvist's work could only be used as a preface or a first chapter of Dania's history.

Kvist's banishment from Dania in November of 1933 may possibly have been the result of Kvist's role as editor and advertising agent of the Danish National Committee's annual Jubilee Book for that year. Dania's delegate to the Danish National Committee, Morten Westergaard, claimed that Kvist had refused to submit a list of advertising fees and voluntary contributions received. Since expenses were incurred without the knowledge of this income, there was no budgetary control on the Jubilee Book and a rather large deficit was incurred. It was then made known at the July meeting that Kvist, working on a twenty five per cent commission, had received a disproportionately large amount of money, and should be prevented from collecting any more commission in view of the deficit incurred on the Jubilee Book.

The Anton Kvist dichotomy in Dania became very obvious in the spring of 1948 when Marius Larsen, then the president of the Danish National Committee, mentioned that at a banquet for Kvist, occasioned by his appointment as Knight of Dannebrog, only *three* Dania members were present at the affair which was held in the hall of the Danish Workers' Singing Society on Rockwell Street. Larsen's motion that Kvist be made an honorary member of Dania was not carried, nor was the one by A. K. Mose that Dania's Entertainment Committee collect money for Kvist's forthcoming trip to Denmark.

At the Dania meeting in March of 1952, Axel M. Andersen, a Kvist supporter, suggested that Dania assign Kvist the job of writing Dania's history for the 90th Anniversary: the proposal was not carried. A. K. Sorensen then inquired whether Kvist had returned the source material to Dania that had been lent him over twenty years ago. (Kvist informed the Dania members at the June meeting in 1931 that all protocols and records obtained by him from Dania had been returned.)

When Anton Kvist became an octogenarian on October 29, 1958, Dania threw

a fine party for him. Perhaps time does tend to heal old wounds. At the time of this writing, however, Anton Kvist is not a member of Dania. To many, the fact that Kvist, a gifted poet who had been knighted, and decorated with the Liberty Medal, is not an honorary member of Dania does not quite add up.

The early 1930's witnessed the passing of many of Dania's good members. Dr. Peter C. Clemmensen, a member since 1912 and very active on the Activities Committee, passed away in 1932. That same year Christ Agger (father of President Jens Agger) and Jens "Kongen" Jensen died. Both these men had become Dania members on February 4, 1911. During the "Century of Progress" Fair in 1933, James Skallerup and Berthel Nielsen passed away. Skallerup had been a member since 1900, and the generous Berthel Nielsen had been on the roster since 1898.

In 1934, bookbinder Christian Christensen, a member since 1899, met with a fatal accident. He had served well for several years as the recording and corresponding secretary of Dania. Christensen was joined during that year by Carl M. Petersen and Christ B. Nielsen. Petersen had been on the membership list since 1887, had served as a trustee for several years, and was one of the men behind the purchase of the Chicago Avenue property back in 1891. Christ Nielsen, the "official" undertaker for Chicago's Danish colony, had joined Dania at the end of World War I, and was greatly admired for his sympathy and aid to his bereaved countrymen.

The depression years affected Dania in the same way that it did other similar clubs and societies. Burdened with debt at a high interest rate, and unable to extract hardly any dues from the financially strapped members, Dania found itself in an embarrassing cash position. Vice-president Emanuel Nielsen reported that Dania's current liabilities exceeded the cash-on-hand by some twenty times. Many members should technically have been expelled from Dania during these years for failing to pay their dues. A person-to-person campaign, however, brought in over \$1,000.00, and no members were drummed out.

The financial picture began to grow brighter in 1935. A boxing match in Wicker Park yielded over \$800.00, and most important of all, slot machines were installed in Dania. Money now started to trickle into the coffers and Dania began benefiting from the fact that "there's a sucker born every minute."

By 1937, Dania's mortgage had been reduced to \$15,000.00, and President Hans Christian Eriksen disclosed that the new mortgage loan had been arranged at a reasonable interest rate. The income from the "one-armed-bandits" was such that various remodeling work by Thorghersen & Eriksen, as well as new furniture and fixture purchases could be made.

Times were still difficult in 1938, and Dania's membership of only 236 men owed over \$1,100.00 in back-dues. The slot machines kept whirring, however, and the treasury soon showed a surplus of close to \$3,500.00. (To make sure that all the slot machine money ended up in the proper hands, it was found necessary to have the machines emptied in the presence of two Building Committee members.) During 1938,

\$200.00 was set aside each month for the purchase of mortgage bonds in order to decrease the outstanding debt. This helped Dania reduce its debt by \$1,500.00 that year.

By 1942, Dania's mortgage debt liability was down to \$3,500.00. Axel M. Andersen, who had several times before accommodated Dania, agreed to lend the Society the \$3,500.00 at 4%, thereby enabling Dania to pay the remaining principal balance. Three years later, in 1945, Dania paid off the Andersen loan and was finally debt free.

One of the pillars in Dania during the Thirties and Forties was Axel Miller Andersen. An energetic and sagacious person, Andersen spent most of his spare time working for Dania and other Danish organizations. He is well remembered for his unusual oratorical gifts, and few people would disagree that where Axel Andersen moved, there was life. Andersen founded and belonged to more societies, and authored more "jubilee books" than any other member of Dania. He was responsible for the "jubilee books" for Harmonien's 50th anniversary, Dania's 75th anniversary, "Ungdomsforeningen's" 50th, and for the silver anniversary of Paul Hoff Kunst's Revues.

Axel Andersen was born in Storeheddinge, Sjaelland, on January 4, 1887. He learned the carpentry trade and finished his apprenticeship at the age of eighteen. The following year he immigrated to Minnesota where he worked as a carpenter, and found time to form a team of gymnasts. In the summer of 1911 he moved to Chicago and immediately joined "Ungdomsforeningen," where he served as president for twenty five years.

On May 1, 1926, Axel Andersen joined Dania, and in January of '34 he became president. One of his first official acts was to crown Ove Knudsen with a laurel wreath at a banquet given in honor of that talented actor. This somewhat dramatic gesture was an expression of Dania's appreciation of Ove Knudsen's artistic performances, and for his co-operation with Dania on numerous occasions. (Monarchical recognition came some years later when the King of Denmark bestowed the Royal Medal of Reward, in gold and with a crown, upon Ove Knudsen.)

The January election in 1935 saw Axel Andersen's re-election as president. Emanuel Nielsen moved in as the officer next in rank, Adolph Nielsen became treasurer and Gunnar Jensenius was elected quill-driver. Seven members questioned the validity of this particular election since Nielsen (Adolph) and Jensenius hadn't been members long enough, according to the bylaws, to qualify for office. Sixty nine other members didn't quite see it this way, and the election remained as voted.

On more than one occasion, Axel Andersen played the role of a financial savior for Dania. The records indicate that several times he lent Dania money at interest rates lower than the prevailing money market rate. Politically, Andersen may have been a little radical, especially in his younger years, but basically he was a conservative. Several times he demanded that the old historic pictures be hung again on Dania's walls, and when it came to the financial management of Dania he warned repeatedly against a too liberal use of the Society's funds.

Andersen was an aggressive, strong-willed individual who didn't always find smooth sailing among all of Dania's members. No kudoos were thrown his way by Christian "Pioneer" Nielsen: the journalist protested a resolution by Carl Wogelius that a letter of thanks for work well done be sent to Andersen; "What nonsense! He

deserves no thanks" was the remark Nielsen made in a letter to Secretary Jensenius.

When it came to the question of changing Dania's official language to English, Axel Andersen fought hard for retaining the Danish language. He was one of the "three musketeers" who refused to give up Danish without a fight: the other two were Carl Wogelius and Morten Westergaard.

Axel Andersen's deep interest in Dania induced him to continue Charles L. Wilde's "Memorable Recollections of Dania" with his own, "Dania's History 1935-1952." (Probably intended for publication, but now only existing in manuscript form.) In November of 1953, Andersen presented three typewritten copies of his Dania chronicle to the Society, together with the minutes of the first meeting of Dania on November 23, 1862. He submitted a typing bill for \$100.00, and A. K. Mose then moved that Andersen should be paid \$200.00 in appreciation of his fine work.

When Axel Andersen joined "General Rye's Brigade" on June 11, 1956, Dania and the Danish colony in Chicago lost a true soldier of Denmark. As a builder, and as one of the leading advocates of Danish culture, he will long be remembered. Axel Andersen was the recipient of King Christian X's Liberty Medal, but many of his colleagues and friends felt he deserved the Knight of Dannebrog honor.

One of the most colorful characters appearing on the Dania scene during the past forty years was Morten Westergaard. He was a man of many talents, and yet at the same time was capable of being rebellious, stubborn, and indiscreet.

Westergaard was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1880, in Randers, Denmark. There was certainly something Irish about this Dane: he loved a gay time and was fond of what we might call "Irish Mist." Westergaard attended the Randers Latin School, and took the entrance examinations to the University of Copenhagen. He liked to flirt a bit with his knowledge of Latin, and later his language in the Dania minutes showed traces of this tendency.

Morten Westergaard began his journalistic career in Copenhagen as a reporter for "Klokken 12" ("Twelve O'Clock") in 1902. He later worked for a theatrical paper, "Kritik & Program," but was fired for selling the programs on the sidewalk. A widower at age twenty two, he emigrated to the United States and remarried. For several years he worked for a Danish paper called, "Chicago Posten," then for a newspaper in La Crosse, Wisconsin (1908-10). After a few years of free-lancing he became connected with "Ugebladet" (The Weekly)-Minneapolis, and when he passed away on February 10, 1952, he was the local editor of the "Danish Pioneer."

Westergaard was the conscientious recording secretary of Dania in 1920, and with the exception of 1935-36, from 1926 to 1942. His election as secretary in January of '42 marked the twentieth time he had been ballotted into that office. He wrote the most detailed (actually, too detailed) minutes of any recording secretary, and to his credit, he never omitted any reports which severely criticized himself for his ungentlemanly behavior toward, or remarks about, his fellow members. Westergaard also served on many committees, accompanied the presidents on visits to sick members, and was a dutiful delegate to the Danish National Committee in 1932-33.

No timid soul he, Westergaard had a volatile personality which occasionally was marked by a lack of self control. In an article in the February 22, 1922 issue of the

"Danish Times," Westergaard's descriptive comments about Christian Nielsen were such that he very possibly could have been sued for libel. "Pioneer" Nielsen, smarting under the scurrilous Westergaard pen, wrote an indignant letter on March 1st to Dania's president, P. C. Petersen. O. P. Rubardt then demanded that an apology be published in the three Danish newspapers before the next meeting of Dania. Westergaard refused to comply with this mandate.

Charles L. Ryberg and Morten Westergaard co-authored a Revue which was to be given on March 23, 1924. President Petersen, knowing full well the acid content of both these writers' quills, had to guarantee the Dania members that their good names wouldn't be abused. The Nielsen-Westergaard feud was still red hot, and Westergaard's continuing refusal to apologize publicly resulted in his Revue being thrown into the wastebasket before it could be given. At the last minute, Charles P. Ditlefsen wrote a humorous revue which was used instead.

Ten years later, Dania's president, Axel Andersen, came forth with a complaint about Westergaard's behavior at a Board of Directors' meeting and in the club rooms. He demanded Westergaard's resignation as secretary, which was promptly turned in at the following meeting. Westergaard had, up to then, shown an exceptional ability as secretary, but in spite of this the members demanded that he step down due to his ignoble and unbefitting behavior, and at the January '35 meeting Gunnar Jensenius took over as Dania's scrivener. A year later, however, Westergaard was back in the saddle again as the official scribe.

Dania honored Morten Westergaard on his seventieth birthday with a luncheon and a purse of seventy silver dollars. Westergaard, who admittedly had his weaknesses, was a gifted man, stubbornly addicted to the Danish language. When English became the official language in Dania, Westergaard resigned as secretary because he absolutely refused to record the minutes in any other language except Danish.

Dania's president in 1936 was the handsome Dr. Emanuel Nielsen. Dr. Nielsen, a poet when not practicing dentistry, became a member on February 14, 1934. During his administration in 1936, a dinner on June 15th was given in honor of the Danish Minister, Otto Wadsted, who turned out to be very popular with Chicago's Danish colony.

Dr. Nielsen, on many occasions, put his gift as an eloquent and fervid orator to good use. He spoke at the 25th Rebild Park festival in 1937, and participated in the memorial services for Dr. Max Henius at the University of Chicago Chapel in 1935.

The poetry of Dr. Emanuel Nielsen is known to most Chicago Danes. His verse was first written in the Danish language, but he later made the difficult transition to English, and his first volume of poems in English, "The Heart Has Many Doors", appeared in 1958, the same year in which he resigned from Dania. Early in 1962 another collection of his verse, "The Eagle and the Man", was published by Bruce Humphries Co. in Boston.

The co-inventor of the loudspeaker, Peter L. Jensen, joined Dania in 1936. Due to his scientific interests and duties, the modest and famous Jensen never became an active member. He was honored with the Knight's Cross, and was an honorary member of the Danish Pilots Association, a laurel he treasured highly. Peter Jensen died in 1961 at the age of 75.

Dania's vice-presidency was entrusted to Axel V. Teisen in 1936. Teisen, born on July 5, 1886 in Norre Naeraa on Funen, came to Chicago in 1910. After attending evening school for several years he became an architect in 1915, and in his later years was Assistant to Chicago's school architect, John C. Christensen. Christensen, who was Dania's president in 1917-18, and Teisen were not only associated professionally but were card-cronies, and both spent many evenings around Dania's card tables. As an architect, one of Teisen's most significant works was the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin located in Rebild National Park. Dania voted on March 11, 1933 to contribute \$100.00 for lumber from the Illinois State woods which was to be used in the construction of this shrine.

Teisen was especially active in Dania during the early Twenties. In 1922 and '23 he served on the House Committee and the Building Committee. As chairman of the former, he recommended that a guard be hired to keep order in the hall and take care of the automobiles parked in front of the building: the estimated cost would be about \$300.00 a year. This recommendation was accepted, but Teisen refused to personally select the guard and suggested that the members choose between seven applicants. At the next meeting, however, Teisen announced that the House Committee had fired the guard. After some heated discussion about the House Committee's dictatorial procedure in this matter, its action was approved.

At the January meeting in 1923, Teisen informed the members that according to the House Committee's accounting the net income from Dania's building was over \$3000.00, and not \$1811.00 as previously reported by the treasurer. Teisen pointed out that the income derived from renting out the hall should make the financial administration of Dania rather easy.

When Axel Teisen was vice-president in 1936 he headed the committee to arrange a Hans Christian Andersen evening in Dania. This took place on April 7th, with Poul Leyssach reciting some of H. C. Andersen's famous tales and stories.

On July 14, 1961, tribute was paid by Dania to Axel V. Teisen who had passed away on July 5th.

The burly figure of Waldemar A. Bauer was well known to most members of the Danish colony in Chicago, for Bauer was a true lover of a good time and good food and drink. Although a member of Dania, Bauer was especially active in the Danish National Committee, the Kronborg Lodge, the Danish-American Sick Benefit Association, and the "Old Settlers' Society" which he was president of when he died in 1937.

A typical Copenhagener, Bauer loved the Danish Constitution festivals, where bedecked with his ribbons, he usually took advantage of the opportunity to make a speech. In May of 1937, seven months before his demise, Bauer requested that Dania's

name be put on a petition to obtain an official recognition from Denmark for two women known for their outstanding charity work; namely, Mrs. Nanna Rasmussen and Mrs. Hilda Sorensen. (On November 17, 1939, the Royal Medal of Reward in gold was bestowed on both women by Consul General R. Baumann.)

Waldemar A. Bauer, an old and faithful member of Dania, was an ailing and weary man when he passed away at the age of seventy four on December 27, 1937. Childlike in some ways, but very likeable, many felt that Bauer deserved an official decoration from Denmark.

The year 1937 was a busy one for Hans Christian Eriksen. At the January meeting in Dania the reins once again were handed him. (He was president in 1928). At the July meeting, Eriksen reported that he had made plans for the remodeling of the basement, and that his firm could perform the work for a reasonable price of around \$2,000.00. There wasn't that much money in the treasury: A. K. Mose protested; Eriksen was given the green light anyway. When the renovation work was completed, Eriksen held a grand opening for the members, and at the next meeting it was voted to pay Thorgersen & Eriksen's bill of \$2,491.39 even though there was some criticism of the work performed. Another "renovation" was much cheaper: the name of the basement was changed from "Rathskeller", Morten Westergaard's lingo, to "Lower Hall."

The crowning point of the year for Hans C. Eriksen took place at Dania's 75th Anniversary banquet. The Danish Minister in Washington D.C., His Excellency Otto Wadsted, bestowed the Knight's Cross of Dannebrog on Dania's outstanding leader.

At the January meeting in 1938, when Eriksen was re-elected as president, a letter was read from the Danish Aid and Relief Society informing Dania that many poor Danes were being buried in a potter's field. The Danish Aid and Relief Society, feeling this a disgrace, requested Dania to contribute to a fund which would be used to pay for decent internments for pauperized Danes. The request stirred Dania to donate \$25.00.

On August 22, 1945, it was President Albert Clausen's sad duty to announce the death on August 16th of one of Dania's most eminent members, Hans Christian Eriksen. Like so many of his fellow countrymen, Eriksen's life had a fairy tale finish: from rags to riches -from lowly circumstances in his native Denmark to prominence and opulence in America. Eriksen was proof that America was the best place for a Dane to become an Algeresque hero.

Dania members apparently felt very generous during 1938. When the Einar Mundts left for the East, Dania gave \$50.00 to Mrs. Agnes Mundt in appreciation of the many times she had entertained with her beautiful voice. The following year, when Russia attacked Finland, Dania contributed \$100.00 to the Finnish Red Cross, and the Dania Ladies' Society collected clothes for the Finns. Seventeen years earlier Dania had donated money to the "Friends of Starving Russians."

Another example of Dania's generosity in aiding unfortunate countrymen concerns the case of Otto Dohse. Dohse joined Dania in 1918 and in 1926 was granted a

free membership. He then became destitute and blind, and Dania gave him \$50.00 plus a monthly check of \$10.00. Dohse reciprocated in the only way he could: he donated 59 books to Dania's library in 1938.

In 1939, the Dania presidency was taken over by A. K. Mose. Seventeen years prior to this he was the president of the Danish Young People's Society, and shortly thereafter, a new member of Dania. A. K. Mose was elected Alderman in the 50th Ward for the period 1927-31, and Dania gave a banquet in his honor on May 19, 1927.

Rather impressive in appearance, A. K. Mose is somewhat brusque and positive in his approach to his fellow Dania members. He has always been most assertive in his opinions, and he has never minced any words in making clear his ideas or his position on a matter.

A stickler for strict adherence to Dania's rules, A. K. Mose protested the election of Adolph Nielsen as treasurer, and Gunnar Jensenius as secretary, at the January 1935 meeting: neither man had been a Dania member for the required one year. In September of that same year, A. K. Mose was elected as vice president.

In 1937, A. K. Mose suggested that a calligraphed address be sent the King of Denmark on His Majesty's silver jubilee as the reigning monarch. Jens Eriksen, a Dania member from 1935 to 1942, produced this artistic address through his advertising firm, and the text of the address was written by Dr. J. Christian Bay, Chief Librarian of the John Crerar Library. A. K. Mose received Dania's thanks for the idea, and for coordinating the work.

On September 13, 1933, A. K. Mose reported for the Committee on Mutual Visitation Rights Between Dania, Norske Klub, and the Swedish Club. This committee's recommendation, shortly thereafter approved by Dania, was that the members of the three clubs be given membership-admittance cards in each society, but that all food and drink consumed had to be on a cash, rather than a charge, basis.

Through his political connections, A. K. Mose sponsored the boxing matches in Wicker Park Hall, such as the profitable one in October, 1935. He also was probably behind the proposal to make the Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago ex-officio, honorary members. This was voted down at the July 17, 1935 meeting, as was a similar proposal at the July 27, 1955 meeting.

It was quite natural, due to his connections, that A. K. Mose brought prominent political personages to Dania as speakers. He was undoubtedly instrumental in obtaining as a guest speaker for the luncheon on September 24, 1950, the Chairman of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, William N. Erikson. At a similar luncheon in October of 1956, the guest speaker was Senator Everett Dirksen.

At the January 27, 1960 meeting, A. K. Mose commented on a motion to sell the existing club quarters. He suggested that Dania remain at its present location for the time being, but select a committee which would investigate the possibilities of selling the property and re-locating.

Although active both in Republican politics (for over thirty years) and in his business as a realtor, A. K. Mose has shown a constant interest in Dania throughout the years. He has served on numerous committees, handled the liquor license fees, intervened whenever Dania ran into trouble with the city officials, and publicized the

name of Dania through the press whenever possible. He also has played an important role when the Danish royalty visited Chicago; namely at the banquet for the Crown Prince and Crown Princess in 1939, and at the brief stopover the King and Queen of Denmark made at Dania in 1959.

A. K. Mose's assertive and positive manner has, quite naturally, rubbed other members the wrong way now and then. Not all members see eye to eye with him, yet the official Dania records certainly indicate that A. K. Mose has made an important contribution to the growth of Dania.

Harmony didn't exactly reign in Dania in 1939, especially when it came to sentiments about the ex-member and past president, Christian "Pioneer" Nielsen. Hans C. Eriksen, Dania's president in 1937-38, donated a painting to Dania of his late friend, Christian Nielsen, and had it hung in the card room. Rumors then followed that one of Dania's head executives had voiced the opinion that Nielsen's picture deserved a "special" place of honor, namely the room labelled "Gentlemen." One of Christian Nielsen's daughters got wind of this disparaging remark and wrote an indignant letter to Dania. A discussion among Dania's members concerning this whole unsavory incident revealed that "Pioneer" Nielsen had both as many friends as he had enemies within the Society. Axel Andersen rubbed some balm on the wound by having a letter of apology, signed by Dania's top brass, sent to Nielsen's daughter. That wasn't the end, however. It was then discovered that vandalism had been performed on the painting of Christian Nielsen, as well as on a group photograph of the Danish Crown Prince, Crown Princess, and Dania president, A. K. Mose (the latter's head had actually been effaced). A committee was immediately formed to find the perpetrator of these disgraceful and juvenile acts. It was impossible to track down the culprits, but the episode was later finally closed when Fred Nielsen informed Dania, by letter, that he was mostly to blame.

The decade of the 1930's was certainly one of the most eventful ones in Dania's long history. Starting with the trip to Denmark and ending with the visit of the Danish Crown Prince and Crown Princess, the 1930's were crammed full of interesting events. Miss Henni Forchhammer, Denmark's representative at the League of Nations, was honored at a banquet in 1931; a party for the "Veterans of Dania" (members of over 29 years good standing) was given for sixty members by the Activities Committee; and later in '31 Judge Barasso, of Governor Emerson's Joint Relief Committee, lectured.

In the fall of '32, Ove Knudsen and Orla Juel put on a cabaret evening which netted over \$100.00 for the treasury; and in November, Dania's 70th anniversary was celebrated with an elegant banquet, the highlight being the reading of a prologue written by Anton Kvist.

The year 1933 was a happy one. The death-knell of Prohibition was celebrated at the Dania Tavern Party, and the Scandinavian Week at the World's Fair saw Dania entertaining many out-of-town guests. Miss Thit Jensen, the Danish author and sister of the famous Johannes V. Jensen, was the honored guest at a luncheon in June.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's 52nd birthday was celebrated in Dania on January 30, 1934, at a festival sponsored by the Danish National Committee. In March, Dr. Peter Manniche, the president of the International Folk High School at Elsinore, and Aage Krarup-Nielsen, a prolific author of travel books, lectured in Dania. Three months later Dania gave a luncheon for three visiting firemen from Denmark; N. Friis-Skotte, the Danish Minister of Communications; P. Knutzen, the Director of the Danish State Railways; and Mrs. Knutzen. In December, Dania was part of the 250 year memorial festival of Ludvig Holberg which was held in Logan Square. Ove Knudsen played the role of Jeppe in Holberg's "Jeppe Paa Bjaerget," and also directed and played in Holberg's "The Changed Bridegroom" at a theatre evening sponsored by the Dania Ladies' Society.

The second half of the decade began with a dinner in honor of Mrs. Gorm Rasmussen, the Danish colony's generous benefactress, on October 19, 1935. The next year Dania participated in a Lauritz Melchior evening which was held in the club rooms of the Danish Workers' Club. Paul Leyssac and Jacob Texiere, noted Danish raconteurs of H. C. Andersen's fairy tales, entertained the members on two occasions that same year, but the attendance was rather poor.

Dania's 75th anniversary celebration in 1937 was one of the most outstanding events in its history. After much discussion as to where the jubilee regalement should be held, -some wanted Dania, others wanted Wicker Park Hall, -it was finally decided to celebrate in the Stevens Hotel. Axel Andersen, the jubilee program expert, produced a large, beautiful program which contained pictures and a resumé of Dania's 75 years. One of the jubilee program's best features was that it was profitable to the tune of over \$2,000.00.

The Danish Minister in Washington D.C., Otto Wadsted, headed the list of distinguished guests which included all of the Scandinavian Consul Generals. A cocktail party preceded the dinner which was held in the beautifully decorated banquet hall.

The music for the gala affair was furnished by P. Marinus Paulsen and his orchestra. The first number was the "Overture to Elverhoj," probably the most lasting musical success on the Danish stage since 1828. Tenor Aage Werner then sang Airlie Dix's "The Trumpeter," followed by the orchestra which played P. Marinus Paulsen's "Danish Fantasia." Mrs. Agnethe Mundt then sang a group of songs: Tosti's "Good-bye"; Nielsen's "Farewell to Denmark"; and Lumbye's "Dream-pictures." After the orchestra had sailed through Strauss's "Blue Danube," Miss Olga Dane sang "My Heart At Thy Sweet Voice" from Saint Saen's "Samson and Delilah," and Kai deVermond sang Verdi's "Il lacerato spirito Bocca Negra." Lumbye's "Champagne Galop" ended the rather ambitious musical program.

President Hans Christian Eriksen bid everyone welcome and then turned the toastmaster's job over to Hon. Peter B. Nelson. Rev. A. W. Andersen of the Danish Trinity Lutheran Church gave the invocation, which was followed by a sumptuous dinner.

Since this was Dania's "diamond jubilee," everybody got into the act. Dines Miller read a prologue written by Carl Jacobsen; Vice President George P. Jensen spoke for Dania; Jorgen Berthelsen spoke for America; P. C. Petersen spoke in behalf of the ladies; His Excellency, Otto Wadsted, was the main speaker and delivered an eloquent address. Paul Hoff Kunst's wonderful songs, "Aeldgamle Dania" and "Dania Song" were sung, as was Mads Hansen's "Vi har sagt det saa tit . . .". The

banquet program ended with the spirited singing of the national anthems of both Denmark and America.

Dancing followed the dinner until the wee hours of the morning. Everyone present considered this 75th anniversary celebration one of the most perfect Danish affairs that had ever taken place in Chicago. It even ended up \$382.32 in the black!

Dania's quarters were a hive of activity during these years. It became even more so when it decided, in July, 1938, to donate its club rooms to those members who were celebrating their wedding anniversaries or other family commemorations. In September of that year Dania became the temporary headquarters of the Danish Brotherhood who were on their way to a convention in Washington D.C. Gunnar Jensenius, chairman of the convention committee, had made a deal with Dania for the use of its rooms for five days for \$100.00.

Dania's big year, 1939, started with a lecture by Espen Jeppe Aakjaer, the son of the foremost Danish poet of that time, on February 10th. At the same meeting the 90th birthday of ex-president (1915) Joseph "Uldjyden" Jensen was celebrated. The most sensational event in '39 was undoubtedly the visit of Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid of Denmark on April 23rd. After a church service in Trinity Lutheran Church and a visit to the Danish Old People's Home, the Royal Highnesses came to Dania for champagne and pyramid cake. Police Lieutenant T. P. Hansen, a Dania member, was assigned to protect the Danish royalty while they were in Chicago. The Danish National Committee, headed by Dania member John Bang, held a banquet for the Crown Prince and Crown Princess at the Stevens Hotel on April 25th. The Scandinavian Consul Generals, the Governor of Illinois, and the Mayor of Chicago were among the honored guests. The banquet was truly a thrilling and elegant affair, and A. K. Mose, Dania's president, did an excellent job as the toastmaster. Much of the success of the Royal visit was due to the Royal celebrities themselves: Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid won everyone's hearts by their kind and democratic attitude towards all the people they met.

In the summer of '39, Mrs. Gorm Rasmussen turned over her estate, Elmwood Farm in Lake Forest, for a charity affair sponsored by the Danish Aid and Relief Society. Dania was well represented by Ove Knudsen who directed an excellent performance of Johan Ludvig Hejberg's "Elfenhill."

At the July meeting in Dania, the Danish Minister in Washington, the popular Otto Wadsted, was elected an honorary member of the Society. When he later moved to Rome, he wrote Dania and praised the club for the prominent role it was playing in the cultural life of Chicago.

Soren Sorensen, the owner of the Union Grove Dairy Company, was elected Dania's president by one vote at the January meeting in 1940. He served in this capacity in 1941, and passed away on February 2, 1949. A former Dania president in 1901, and honorary member, Martin H. Houlberg, went the way of all flesh in April, 1940. He had been an active member since 1893, and when not tending his paint store he spent many hours in Dania.

The meeting at Dania on April 11, 1940, was truly a sad and funereal occasion. Two days prior, on April 9th, Denmark had been invaded and occupied by its old arch enemy, Germany. Many members felt that Dania would be the only Denmark left.

George P. Jensen then fathered the idea that a Chicago-Denmark Committee be formed for the purpose of coordinating all the aid possible for the violated country. Axel Andersen suggested that this committee should also help the Danish seamen who became stranded in the United States. In August the local Chicago-Denmark Committee became part of the National American-Denmark Committee, and by 1942 this organization had more than 100,000 members. Through the indefatigable efforts of George P. Jensen many U. S. Defense Bonds were sold by the local committee, and more than \$1,200,000.00 in bonds were sold through the national committee.

World War II, and especially the occupation of Denmark, brought about a much closer relationship between the Danish-American citizens in Chicago. United by their love for Denmark and by their sympathy for her plight, many joined Dania during this period. There was also a renewed interest in things Danish. The Dania Young People's Society put on "Han sidder ved Smeltediglen", a play by the famous clergyman, poet and playwright, Kaj Munk, who was murdered by Hitler's henchmen. On September 26, 1940, Dania wired congratulations to Denmark's popular and courageous King Christian IX on his 70th birthday.

Many large defense plants were built in the Chicago area during the early 40's. One of these was the enormous Buick factory which Hans Christian Eriksen's firm, Thorgersen & Eriksen, was constructing. On December 14, 1941, a week after the "Day of Infamy" at Pearl Harbor, the members of Dania visited this factory as Eriksen's guests.

On the second anniversary of the German invasion of Denmark, a well attended protest meeting was staged at Lane Technical High School. The main speaker was Ruth Owen Brian Rohde, the former U. S. Ambassador to Denmark. Jens Agger represented Dania's "Rear Squad", this being the new name for Charles L. Wilde's "Home Guards."

Dania's prime income producers, the slot machines, were put under lock and key in the fall of 1941, in order to avoid further taxation and court suits. The "one-armed bandits," throughout the following years, went in and out of use, depending on whether the "heat" was on or off. It was a severe blow to Dania's coffers when these machines were permanently removed by State's Attorney Adamowsky in 1957.

1942-1962

The semi-annual meeting in Dania on June 22, 1942, was an historic one. The question whether or not Dania's official language should remain Danish, or be changed to English, had simmered and boiled for several years. Various members, as early as 1936, had tried to get the English language adopted as the official one, but the powerful "pro-Danish" clique (notably the "three musketeers"-Axel Andersen, Morten Westergaard and Carl Wogelius) had been successful in thwarting this move.

There were at this time certain sociological pressures working against the retention of the Danish language. The Immigration Laws of 1924, which had lowered the sluice gates on the inflow of Danish emigrants, had served to check the increase of Danish-born members in Dania. More second generation Danes were joining, and to them English was the more convenient and comfortable language. World War II also was an Americanizing factor.

At the January meeting in '42, at which time Marius Krogh was elected president, the language question created a lively if not somewhat heated discussion. The "pro-Danish" faction somehow prevented a vote from being taken, but this only served to delay the inevitable. At the June 24th powwow, Morten Westergaard resigned as secretary, and this signified the end of the battle for retaining the Danish language.

Andrew Karkow became Dania's leader in January of '43. At that meeting it was officially declared that, "Dania shall conduct all its meetings in the American language and that all general correspondence shall be in that language." P. C. Petersen was elected secretary, and as such became the first scribe to record Dania's minutes in the English language.

From January 24, 1945, to January 27, 1960, Dania's secretary was Andrew Karkow. Many capable men have recorded Dania's minutes throughout its 100 year history, but the blue ribbon must be awarded to Andrew Karkow. Many of Dania's protocols and minutes, which are still in existence, were recorded in illegible hand-

writing, with no punctuation. Many were much too brief and uninformative, while others were much too detailed and redundant. Andrew Karkow's records, neatly typed and very complete, are the work of a perfectionist.

The defeat of the Danish language at the June '42 meeting was so definite that Axel Andersen, in his history of Dania, remarked: "This is probably the last time Dania's history is being written in Danish. In ten years, when the Society reaches the age of one hundred years, it is quite likely that a history will be written in English." As you can see, Andersen's prophetic remark was correct. He also was very apprehensive about the future of the Danish language in Chicago's Danish circles. Where once there had been three or four Danish newspapers, there was only one at the time of Andersen's writing, and that was the "Danish Pioneer," reduced to a one page paper.

On November 11, 1942, the name of Dr. Lewis K. Eastman was deleted from Dania's membership list because of failure to pay his dues. Eastman was the grandson of Emil Havelock ("Havlykke"), the Dania secretary in 1866, and was a nephew of Charles L. Ryberg, another prominent Dania member who has been mentioned earlier.

When Dr. Eastman changed the name of the Keystone Hospital, in 1933, to the Danish-American Hospital (where no Danish physicians were on the staff), a protest was lodged by the Danish National Committee, the substance of which was that the change had been made without the knowledge of the Danish organizations in Chicago.

One of Dania's most conscientious and faithful members is Albert Walter Clausen, who unanimously was elected president in 1944, and again in 1945. Clausen became a Dania member in 1928 when all Dania Young People's Society members, such as he, were admitted to Dania without being charged the usual initiation fee.

Clausen was elected to the Building Committee in January of '42, and has served with this advisory group on and off up until the present time. In '42, as a member of this committee, he helped prepare a cost estimate on exterminating the mice, rats and other playful rodents which were frequenting Dania's property. In the same year, Clausen suggested that Dania join the Book-of-the-Month Club in order to improve the English section in the library. His first selection would undoubtedly have been Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men." Also in '42, President Marius Krogh congratulated the Clausens on their silver wedding anniversary, and Secretary Westergaard recorded that Clausen himself was greeted at the Dania meeting with a standing "votum felicitatis."

In 1943 Clausen was elected to the Chicago-Denmark Committee, and in 1945 he was on the Rear Squad Committee and helped with its Spring Festival which netted over \$400.00.

The high point of the Clausen '45 regime, in which Einar Christiansen was vice-president; Adolph Nielsen, treasurer; and Andrew Karkow, secretary, was the dinner-dance in Dania on June 23th, to celebrate the burning of the Dania mortgage. As this was the day before St. John's Day, when in Denmark it was the age old custom to build bonfires to chase the evil demons away, a touch of ancient Danish folk culture

was added to the mortgage burning ceremonies. Dania, in a sense, was driving away its evil demon, -debt.

In December of 1947, Clausen was instrumental in getting the following amendment to Dania's bylaws approved: "If the balloting shows less than three negative votes, the applicant (for membership in Dania) will be approved. In the event that three or more negatives votes are cast, the president shall request the members casting negative votes to mail to the secretary within two weeks their reasons in writing. Such letters shall be presented to a review committee, consisting of the president, vice-president and secretary. They shall carefully weigh the reasons sent in by the members for withholding the approval of the application. . . . If less than three letters are received, the application shall be approved."

Clausen was always busy attending to the details which were necessary in order to maintain a well run club. If he wasn't procuring poker chips or buying a mixer, he was trying to locate a piano. At the May meeting in '53, he complimented the Board of Directors for extending a guest card to George Dupont-Hansen, who had been a member from April 10, 1946 until April 1, 1953, when he resigned. George P. Jensen then moved that Dupont-Hansen be made an honorary member of Dania, but this was not approved because it was against Dania's rules to honor a resigned member in this manner.

Another important development in Dania took place in 1945. Originally, only men born in Denmark could become members. Later it was expanded to include men of Danish origin, and even men whose only Danish connection was that they married Danish women. Finally, in 1945, men could become associate members (no voting privileges) if they were just interested in things Danish. In order to survive, Dania was forced to Americanize itself and forget about being an exclusively Danish society.

Christian Bottker, the capable editor of "Revyen" ("The Review") and a member of Dania for many years, passed away in March of 1945. "Revyen" was then purchased by Kristian Baun and Frank Philipsen, and the name changed to the "Danish Times."

Kristian Baun, born in Thy in 1863, came to Chicago in 1887 and became editor of two Danish papers. He joined Dania in 1922, was expelled for failing to pay his dues in 1923, and again in 1928. He had a most checkered career as a pharmacist, teacher, Unitarian minister, and writer. His only real contribution to Dania was as the English translator of Poul Hoff Kunst's short history of Dania which appeared in the Dania Jubilee Book-1937.

On May 8, 1945, V. E. Day, Germany surrendered unconditionally, and Denmark was once again free from her eternal enemy. Oddly enough, Dania's minutes do not refer to this momentous moment in history: the members were undoubtedly too busy celebrating.

The American-Denmark Committee, mentioned above, was still active after the cessation of hostilities. In June of '45 this organization was busy sending children's clothes to Denmark. Especially interested in this project was Esper Petersen, the affluent manufacturer of plastics, and member of Dania since December 13, 1944. Petersen did an outstanding job of not only collecting clothes but of actually buying the material at his own expense to have made into new garments. A testimonial dinner was given Esper Petersen by Dania, the Danish Athletic Club, and the Dania Young People's Society. This was a true demonstration of gratitude for Petersen's comprehensive relief work among Denmark's poor children. The official reward was the Knight's Cross of Dannebrog.

Jens L. Holmen, a member since September 22, 1937, was Dania's delegate to the Danish National Committee in 1940 through 1942. He then became an auditor and trustee of the Society, and on September 15, 1943, was chosen the steward and manager. Holmen and his wife, Magda, were an excellent couple in the kitchen and at the bar, and while there were no complaints about Jens Holmen's stewardship, he terminated his contract on October 1, 1945.

November 5, 1945, marked the passing of James Heyn, a Dania member for forty years. Heyn celebrated his golden wedding anniversary on November 22, 1935, and in July of '40 was made an honorary member of Dania.

The most prominent name in the field of journalism and creative writing, as far as Dania is concerned, was unquestionably Paul Hoff Kunst. There is an aura of mystery surrounding his origin. On May 21, 1891, he was found in "Over Stalden," a cabaret in Charlottenlund (a suburb of Copenhagen). Kunst's father was said to have been "somebody" at the Royal Court, and his mother to have been one of the popular actresses of that time. Kunst's childhood was spent on "Fluepapiret" (The Flypaper), -a crowded bathing beach on the Sound, and in the royal vegetable garden at Charlottenlund Castle. He attended Ordrup Latin School where he developed into a fine soccer player. At this same time, Kunst wrote revues for the curvaceous cabaret singer, Dagmar Hansen, who was the main stage attraction at "Over Stalden."

Kunst emigrated to Chicago where he became the witty editor of the "Danish Times," and a member of Dania in June, 1927. He was an in-again out-again member. Together with Thorvald Sommer, a Copenhagen theatrical dandy, Kunst was drummed out as a member in August, 1933; readmitted in November, 1938; ousted, and then welcomed back in March, 1939.

Paul Hoff Kunst was not only one of the cleverest pens in Chicago's Danish colony, but also one of the most satirical. He made the "Danish Times" an interesting and highly readable paper, and when he later became the local editor of the "Danish Pioneer" his *Madame Ballou* letters were the first thing the Chicago subscribers looked for when the paper hit their doorsteps. These "letters" alone were well worth the subscription price.

Kunst's annual revues for twenty seven consecutive years were the talk of the

Danish colony. Axel Andersen, a Kunst enthusiast, advocated in October 1947, that Dania place an advertisement in the Twenty Fifth Revue program, because "these revues have been an outstanding contribution to Danish cultural life in Chicago." Kunst was of course both admired and feared because of his sarcastic and biting wit. Each year, in the revue, the members of the Danish colony passed review; they were either lampooned or lauded, mocked or commended, parodied or praised, -all according to Kunst's personal judgment. Kunst also authored many droll ditties as well as some fine songs such as "The Dania Song" which was written on the occasion of Dania's and Harmonien's joint jaunt to Denmark in 1930.

After a long period of suffering, death came to Paul Hoff Kunst on April 11, 1951. On his deathbed he received the deserved award of the Knight's Cross of Dannebrog, a decoration which he only wore once, -in his coffin.

At the annual January meeting in 1947 it was reported that a bust of Max Henius had been thrown out of one of Dania's second story windows and had smashed into smithereens. This bust had been presented to Dania by Henius's son at a father-son luncheon in Dania in May, 1936. (It may have been at this luncheon that Rev. Preston Bradley had spoken on, "Personal Impressions of Denmark"). The willful destruction of this bust caused much justified indignation among most of Dania's members. This infantile act was reminiscent of the vandalism practiced on the painting of Christian Nielsen and on the photograph of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess, back in 1939. The bust-breakers were never identified. Although the portrait sculpture of Henius was never replaced, a picture of him, donated by a son in California, still hangs in Dania.

As an internal control on Dania's purse strings, a rule was put in force sometime in 1947 that no money in excess of \$25.00 could be donated to any cause or organization without first submitting a written request and then receiving an affirmative vote. In March of 1950, restaurateur Aksel Nielsen, the leader in Chicago of the international organization, "Red Barnet" (Save the Child), pleaded so eloquently for this worthy cause that Dania's heart melted to the tune of a \$1,000.00 contribution. Some members of Dania with elephantine memories, however, remembered the 1947 rule of the \$25.00 limit, and protested the generous but unauthorized contribution. Aksel Nielsen magnanimously returned the money to Dania at the following meeting.

The years from 1946 through 1948 were relatively quiet ones in Dania. Einar Christiansen held the chieftaincy in '46 and '47, and in '48 it was taken over by Morten Beyer Lassen. Nothing exciting occurred, unless one considers the purchase of a new poker table in '46, the smashing of the Henius bust in '47, and the installation of a new bar in '48, as exciting and important events.

The effects of America's economic inflation were felt in a tangible sense in 1947. On August 13th it was reported that the current valuation of Dania's property

had skyrocketed to \$100,000.00, which meant that Dania's insurance coverage had to be increased to reflect a more realistic value.

At the January meeting in '46, P. C. Petersen was thanked for playing the role of Santa Claus for twenty six years at Dania's Christmas parties. The records do not indicate whether the same Santa suit was worn throughout these twenty six years!

Anker W. Jensen succeeded M. Beyer Lassen as Dania's president in 1949. As far as Dania's finances were concerned, this year, and several to follow, were years of milk and honey for the club. Dania's prosperity induced Anker Jensen to request \$7,500.00 for modernizing the street entrance, changing the rear of the bar, and general decorating and painting. The older, more conservative members voted an emphatic "No," but the younger members voted in the affirmative and the proposal was approved.

Anker Jensen, although an active Dania member, was especially interested in the Danish American Athletic Club. Here he was not only the instructor in folk dancing but served as that organization's president in 1941 and '42. Jensen also riveted his attention on the Danish Old People's Home, and served at one time as that Society's president. As one can see, Anker Jensen was indeed interested in the welfare of both the young and the old people of Danish descent. He now resides in Detroit, Michigan, but his interests are undoubtedly the same.

There weren't too many outstanding social activities in Dania during the 1940's. No celebrations of any kind were held during World War II, although several lectures were given during these war years. Early in 1940 Professor Scott of Northwestern University addressed Dania's members on "Scandinavia and the War." Mayor Borch from Narvik, Norway, spoke in January '41, and in March a luncheon was held for the new Ambassador from Denmark to the United States, His Excellency Henrik Kaufmann, at which time the Ambassador was made an honorary member of Dania. Professor Ingholt of Beloit College lectured on an archeological subject in January '42.

After V. E. Day, May 8, 1945, Dania began to really hum again. In June, Dania's mortgage was burned at a dinner-dance celebration; a banquet in August honored Lauritz Olesen on his 80th birthday; Einar Christiansen concocted a mulligan-stew party for thirty six returning veterans (mostly sons of Dania members) in November; and in that same month Dania bid farewell to Consul General Raymond Baumann at an elegant banquet. Baumann, the Governor's Secretary in the Virgin Islands until 1917, came to Chicago and in 1921 was welcomed by Dania at a banquet. Now, fifteen years later, Dania was saying good-bye to the respected diplomat. Consul General Baumann had recommended many Chicago Danes for Christian X's Liberty Medal for their work for Denmark during World War II.

In February, 1947, Dania gave a dinner party for Flensted Jensen's gymnasts who were performing their Niels Bukh gymnastics in Chicago. Later that year Consul General Poul Scheel was officially welcomed to his Chicago post by Dania, and Landstingsmand Christensen, a member of the Danish Senate, spoke at a Dania meeting.

The famous explorer, Captain Einar Mikkelsen, opened the social calendar in

1949 with a lecture. In May, "Ungdomsforeningen" celebrated its 60th anniversary in Dania, and the Rear Squad held a dinner-dance for the benefit of its Welfare Fund.

On June 5, 1949, the 100th anniversary of the Danish Constitution, Dania celebrated with a fine festival. Aksel Nielsen was the toastmaster, Dr. J. Christian Bay and Consul General Poul Scheel were among the speakers, Anton Kvist contributed a prologue, and Poul Hoff Kunst wrote a song for the occasion. It was a truly Danish celebration, -a people's festival, worthy of Dania's old traditions.

The further Americanization of Dania is evident in the election of Ole Petersen, another second generation Dane, to the presidency in January of 1950. The other officers for that year were: Max H. Pedersen, vice-president; Andrew Karkow, secretary; and Carl M. Hansen, treasurer. The Internal Revenue Dept. knocked on Dania's door in that same year and explained that Dania owed 20% of all the initiation fee income received during the past five years. The members voted (was there any choice?) to pay the \$405.22 which the tax collectors had demanded. This didn't actually hurt Dania too much, for the Society had over \$5,500.00 in the bank, and \$15,000.00 stashed away in Government bonds. Dania's financial condition, during Ole Petersen's reign, was further improved by increasing the initiation fee to \$50.00. The loss of funds which hurt and irked Dania the most was the \$1,147.64 loss to burglars. The safe had been left open, thereby nullifying the insurance coverage.

After vacating the president's chair to Max H. Pedersen in 1951, Ole Petersen was unanimously elected to the Building Committee. Here he supervised the remodeling of the second floor, the installation of an oil heating boiler, etc. To Petersen, who headed his own construction firm, Ole Construction Co., a great deal of credit must be given for the modernization and beautification of Dania's building.

During Max Pedersen's reign, a decision was reached to issue shares in Dania society, one to each member, and the total not to exceed three hundred. In the following year, John Petersen, chairman of the Special Membership Committee, stated that the exchange value, or selling price, of a member's share was \$375.00, and if a member died, the Society would buy back the share for \$150.00.

The president's chair was taken over by George Ugilt in 1952, and a year later he was chosen to occupy it again. Ugilt was certainly one of Dania's most popular members, and was one of the best liked Danish-Americans in Chicago. He was an excellent leader, and had the poise and physique (a former Royal Guard member) to go with it.

George Ugilt joined Dania on March 13, 1946, was the delegate to the Danish National Committee in 1949 and '50, became Dania's vice-president in 1951, and reached the top rung of the ladder in 1952 when the executive gavel was handed him.

When George Ugilt started his second term of office in 1953, his fellow officers were: Ernst Stark, vice-president; Andrew Karkow, secretary; and Carl M. Hansen, treasurer. The Building Committee informed the January meeting that Dania's building was in excellent condition, and that the club rooms had been modernized and new

equipment (chairs, china, silverware, etc.) had been purchased. The Committee also divulged its plans for the completion of the second floor rear alteration work, the installation of a dumb-waiter, and the remodeling of the wardrobe and club entrance facilities. At the March meeting, the Building Committee was asked when it had been given the authority to purchase two new poker tables. President Ugilt somehow smoothed out this touchy point.

At the April 10th meeting, the Building Committee requested that the members voice their opinion as to which of the following two policies should be followed; 1. Make expenditures for modernization of the club from time to time, without dipping too deeply into the treasury, or, 2. Refrain from any expenditures (except for necessary maintenance), and build up a large cash balance for use sometime in the future. Albert Clausen moved that the first policy mentioned be adopted, and this motion was carried without one dissenting vote.

At the June meeting, President Ugilt announced the passing of Poul Wester (Dania's president in 1932) on May 15th, and the Building Committee advised the assemblage that the remodeling of the second floor would cost \$8,500.00. No one batted an eye. This was undoubtedly because Dania's financial condition was excellent: Government bonds worth \$18,000.00, and a bank balance of close to \$28,000.00.

As president, Ugilt recommended that Dania donate \$500.00 towards the re-furnishing of the dormitories at the Danish Lutheran Children's Home: this was unanimously sanctioned by the members. In 1954, Ugilt was the Danish National Committee's representative at the July 4th festival at Rebild National Park, and was honored by being chosen "Mayor for One Day" of the City of Aalborg. In that same year, Ugilt was made a trustee of Dania, a post he held until July 27, 1957.

On September 22, 1957, Aksel Nielsen's restaurant was the scene of a farewell party for George and Jane Ugilt, sponsored by the Danish National Committee. Over three hundred people used this opportunity to say good-bye to the well-liked Ugilts who were departing for Florida. Many were saddened to see this esteemed couple leave, and everyone agreed that Chicago's loss would be Florida's gain.

George Ugilt is presently a realtor, and the East-Florida editor of the "Danish Pioneer": Ugilt was the Chicago editor of that newspaper from 1954 to the time of his departure from the Windy City. As it should be, Ugilt was awarded the Knight's Cross of Dannebrog for his journalistic efforts and his many services to the various Danish organizations.

Ernest Stark and Oscar Terp ascended to the presidency and vice-presidency, respectively, in 1954. Andrew Karkow was re-elected once more as scribe, and Ernest A. Jensen succeeded Carl M. Hansen as the cash-keeper.

The February meeting was one of criticism: Oscar Terp decried the "junk in our so-called library", and Max H. Pedersen called the basement "a catch-all for junk of all kinds". (Harmonien, then a tenant, was blamed for the basement mess.) At the same meeting, Max Pedersen reported on behalf of the Building Committee that the inter-communication system had been installed and that new cues for the pool table had been ordered. The members also voted to donate \$25.00 to the Dan-American Archives in Aalborg and sent it together with two pictures and a program from Dania's 90th anniversary dinner.

Edward Frandsen, at the following meeting, criticized the members' neglect in making reservations for the various social events in Dania. It was agreed that members who failed to make reservations for those affairs which were free, would be charged one dollar per person; for those affairs where the charge was one dollar, the members who hadn't reserved space would be subject to a one dollar fifty levy. Frandsen's motion that ladies be excluded from the card room on Friday nights, when the men customarily played, did not fall on sympathetic ears, and was voted down.

Carl M. Hansen suggested at the June meeting that Dania sponsor an outing for the residents of the Danish Old People's Home, with a lunch in Dania, followed by a sight-seeing trip in the members' automobiles. Anker W. Jensen, then the president of the Home, thanked Dania for its generosity. Dania on several occasions has given the Danish Old People's Home the free use of the hall for their annual banquets.

Dania had good cause to mourn the passing of a devoted and conscientious member when it announced that Carl Thomas Wogelius had relinquished life on June 25, 1954. For more than thirty years Wogelius had been a diligent and industrious member of Dania, serving on every committee imaginable, and accepting any position which was open.

Wogelius began his service to Dania in 1927 when he was elected an auditor. He served in this capacity until 1929, and finally from 1946 to 1950. Wogelius was the Dania delegate to the Danish National Committee in 1927, again in 1931 and '32, and finally in 1952-53. He did duty with the Building Committee from 1932 to 1937, and was on Dania's Board of Directors during that same period. Wogelius was undoubtedly a busy man in the Thirties, for he also served on the Committee for Dania's Welfare, the Committee for Monthly Arrangements, the "Hard Times Party" Committee, the Masquerade Committee, the Activities Committee, and the Laurids Melchior Committee. It should be mentioned here that Wogelius was equally devoted to "Ungdomsforeningen" and was as active in that organization as he was in Dania.

Wogelius was one of the Dania members who was most disturbed by the "Fred Nielsen Case", (the vandalism to the Christian Nielsen painting, etc.), and at the November 22nd meeting in '39, he pleaded for more adult, civilized behavior on the part of the members so that distasteful incidents might always be avoided.

A sociable man, and a lover of a good time, Wogelius usually made it a point to move for a vote of thanks to the Entertainment Committee after an enjoyable party or outing had taken place. A good time usually meant good food, and Wogelius never missed the opportunity to comment on the delicious comestibles that Dania served: he did miss the platter of cheese which was inadvertently omitted at Dania's 75th anniversary banquet.

One of Wogelius's last gestures in Dania was his motion, which was seconded and moved, that Dania repeat its banquet on March 7, 1953 for the Danish Old People's Home. Anker W. Jensen, speaking on behalf of the Home, thanked Dania for its generosity.

Carl Wogelius was indeed a staunch supporter of Danish interests in Chicago. He was one of the "three musketeers" who fought the losing battle to retain the Danish language in Dania.

The ballot count at the January '55 election gave the presidency to Oscar Terp, the vice-presidency to Otto Hansen, and the offices of secretary and treasurer to the incumbents, Andrew Karkow and Ernest Jensen.

In November of '54, it had been proposed that Dania make an air trip to Denmark in 1955. S. A. S. had submitted four proposals, and the members had voted favorably on this idea. At the January '55 meeting, however, it was decided that there wasn't sufficient time to work out a trip for that summer, and the committee was instructed to plan the trip for 1956.

A report was made at the January meeting that a visit had been made to the Oak Forest Infirmary, and that twenty one bereft Danes living there had been treated to Dania sandwiches and John Eriksen's coffee and cake.

The never idle Building Committee was busy eliminating malodors in the building, and replacing the first floor and basement windows at a cost of \$3,000.00. It also was successful in obtaining a \$1,200.00 appropriation for new carpeting for the ladies lounge and the stairs. George L. Andersen urged that air-conditioning be installed at a cost of \$15,000.00, but the members balked at this price tag. Dania faced another expense when the Kedzie Protective Patrol informed the club that if it wanted the patrol service continued it would have to install a burglar-alarm system. This was undoubtedly the result of a burglary at Dania earlier that year. A. K. Mose spoke in favor of this installation which would cost \$1,500.00, and it was approved.

A more pleasant expenditure was made in October of '55. Dania showed its appreciation for Mrs. Christine Christensen's twenty five years of culinary service by giving her a cash gift of \$250.00.

This was the year in which Harmonien gave notice that it was vacating Dania for its new quarters at the Danish Glee Club Hall on Rockwell Street. Harmonien thanked Dania for its kind services rendered during the past years, and expressed its hope that a good relationship would always exist in the future between the two societies.

The election in January '56 saw Oscar Terp, Andrew Karkow and Ernest Jensen remaining in their posts. The only new face was N. Arne Holmen who succeeded Otto Hansen as vice-president.

The air conditioning problem blew around again, and the Building Committee was finally authorized to have the installation made at a cost of \$8,500.00. In May, the Dania keglers received a trophy from the B. B. (Norwegian) Bowling League, and since it is more blessed to give than receive, Dania donated \$25.00 to the Duncan-Northwest Y.M.C.A. for its summer camp.

Niels Arne Holmen became the coxswain of the Dania crew in January '57. Kaj Andersen became the second steersman, and Andrew Karkow and Ernest Jensen remained entrenched in their offices.

At the January meeting, Max H. Pedersen claimed that there was some resistance against progress in Dania, and he cited the slim attendance at the General Assembly meetings as evidence that the members weren't interested enough in Dania's

business affairs. It apparently had gotten to the point where certain amendments couldn't be passed because a majority of the votes weren't present at these important meetings.

A small group of Danish architects and engineers who were visiting Chicago were entertained at a Saturday luncheon in May. The banquet hall was decorated by some members who were painters: Dania supplied the material, and the painters donated their labor.

At the General Assembly on January 22, 1958, Niels Arne Holmen was re-elected president; Carl Hansen, vice-president; Andrew Karkow, secretary; and Ernest Jensen, treasurer. Niels Andersen became chairman of the Building Committee, and Hans Kirkegaard was elected a trustee. Dania's membership stood at 349 men.

The Building Committee reported that new lighting fixtures had been installed in the dining room, and a new hot water heater had been added to Dania's plant. The Danish-American Athletic Club was granted the free use of the basement, subject to whatever rules and regulations the Board of Directors saw fit to impose. Ways of increasing the Society's income were explored, and a fast \$100.00 was seen by selling the old pool table. A tighter control on cash receipts was achieved by requiring that all purchases in the club rooms be registered through the cash register.

Efforts were being made at this time to revive the defunct "Danish Pioneer", and at the July meeting, Hjalmar Bertelsen urged the Dania members to buy shares (\$25.00 each) in the new "Danish Pioneer" which supposedly had 5,000 potential subscribers. In order to print the paper in tabloid size, \$15,000.00 was needed for a new linotype machine. At the same meeting, Ernest Jensen reported a cash balance of \$16,400.00 and bonds valued at \$18,200.00. Max Pedersen then recommended that \$3,000.00 in bonds be sold, and his motion was carried.

Painters Sam Sorensen and Svend Petersen donated their labor so that the entrance hall and basement could have a fresh coat of paint for Christmas.

The new officers in Dania for the 1959 term were Carl M. Hansen as president, and Harold Terp, vice-president. After the election had taken place, Einar Christiansen moved that Dania give a party in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Erik K. Moller before they departed for Dannevang, Texas. The party for the minister of the Danish Trinity Lutheran Church was held on February 22nd, and while not too well attended, it probably was the first time in Dania that a minister had been honored in this way.

In order to improve Dania's financial condition, the initiation fee was raised to \$50.00, and Max Pedersen moved that two \$10.00 assessments be levied on all the members, payable April 1st and October 1st. This motion was carried, but was subsequently rescinded at the May 8th meeting. The "jack pot" winner, M. P. Madsen, was present at the January meeting, and he elected to donate his windfall of \$105.00 to the Danish Old People's Home.

The invincible Dania keglers captured first place in their bowling league for the third consecutive year, and consequently obtained the right of ownership to the bowling trophy which was donated by Sidney Olsen, Clerk of the Criminal Court. The

bowling banquet in Dania on May 9th was a perfect strike. (Dania once had its own bowling alley, but this was dismantled and sold for \$150.00 in July, 1937).

At the December meeting, it was decided to sell some bonds in order to meet current expenses. It was pointed out that all of the 332 members had to pay their dues promptly if the Society was to operate smoothly.

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The 1950's were busy years in Dania. During this decade Dania's social calendar was continually filled with parties, celebrations, concerts, lectures and special luncheons. There were even some members who thought too much was going on!

In July of '50, Dania threw a party for thirty one members of the Aalborg Club who were touring the United States. The visitors were afterwards taken on a auto trip through the Windy City, and to the Danish Old People's Home where they could see what was being done for the Danish senior citizens. The following month saw nineteen guests from Denmark, officials and exhibitors at the U. S. International Trade Fair, entertained with cocktails and a buffet supper in Dania.

John M. Petersen was honored on his 50th birthday with a free "cold-buffet" in February, 1952. The following month the Danish National Committee sponsored a concert by Holger "Faellessanger" ("Community-singer") in Dania. In September, Magister Jens Rosenkjaer lectured, and in November a special luncheon was held for the visiting Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra. On November 22nd, Dania celebrated its 90th anniversary. Gunnar Jensenius bid the guests welcome and in turn introduced as speakers, Dania's President George Ugilt, Dr. J. Christian Bay, Consul General Poul Scheel, and the Hon. Joseph H. Perry, U.S. District Court Judge. The Earl Bichels, who for so many years have given freely of their vocal talents at various Danish functions, entertained with songs. The program commemorating this 90th birthday of Dania contained an article by Axel M. Andersen entitled, "Dania—90 Years".

During 1953, Dania gave a banquet for the benefit of the Danish Old People's Home; honored Høger Bladt, president of the Rebild Board, with a luncheon; and gave a dinner in honor of Mrs. Marie Lange who had helped the Danish Aid and Relief Society many times with benefit dinners. Something new was also added in the form of entertainment when a popinjay shoot was held at one of the Dania outings.

Postmaster Schraeder spoke eloquently about the problems of teen-agers at a poorly attended luncheon in February, 1954. Later that year the former president of Harmonien, Karl Sorensen, was honored with a dinner-dance. In January, 1955, John Bang, the handsome veteran member of Dania, the Danish National Committee and the Danish Old People's Home, was feted on his 80th birthday in Dania. A regular Dania meeting was held upstairs at the same time that Bang's party was going on in the Hall, and it was decided that even though Bang was absent from the meeting, he would receive the jack-pot winnings if his number was pulled: Lady Luck smiled, however, on Anton Terp.

On the 150th anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish National Committee gave a luncheon in Dania, and Dania itself put on a party that same evening. To commemorate the liberation of Denmark (May 5, 1945) a banquet was held in Dania exactly ten years after Denmark was delivered from the German

yoke. A few days later the Norwegian Bowling League, in which Dania participated, held a very successful party in Dania.

Axel Schiøtz, the famous Danish tenor, gave a concert in Dania Hall in January, 1956, and later that year the Danish colony's favorite actors, Ove Knudsen and Orla Juul, were guests at a Dania luncheon. During 1957 the departing Ugilts were saluted at that wonderful farewell party which has already been mentioned. Dania's 95th anniversary festival in November was a great success, with Judge A. Roberts as the guest speaker.

During 1958, the Danish National Committee sponsored a banquet in Dania in honor of the new Danish Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Henrik de Kaufmann. In the fall, Ole Bjørn Kraft, the Danish Foreign Minister, was entertained at a luncheon, and a troupe of Danish gymnasts, under the leadership of Paul Clausen, headquartered in Dania for several days. In 1959, the excellent Danish film, "Ditte, Child of Man", based on Andersen-Nexø's novel, was shown in Dania Hall. Two banquets were given during the latter part of the year: in September the Danish National Committee gave one in honor of Fred Hansen's 60th birthday; in October one was given in honor of His Excellency, Count Knuth-Winterfeldt and Madame Knuth-Winterfeldt.

Aside from all these special events which took place in Dania during the 1950's, there were also the various carnivals and masquerade parties, the May-dances, the Fox Lake family picnics, and the Christmas and New Year's parties. The Christmas parties were usually put on through the joint efforts of several Danish societies: Dania Society, the Danish Junior League, the Dania Ladies' Society, and Harmonien. These Christmas parties were always successful affairs, the one in 1954 being a rather special one. In that year Christ Brix had Pan-American Airways fly a fully decorated Christmas tree over from Denmark, and had it placed in the ladies' lounge for the Christmas holidays.

Throughout the years Dania has been a wonderful place to relax in. Andrew Karkow, the paragon of Dania secretaries, coined a slogan which expressed the members' feelings about Dania: "It is Good to Relax in Dania". Many visitors from Denmark and other parts of the United States have commented that Dania has the finest, most elegant quarters of any Danish society existing in America today. This is mainly due to the ceaseless efforts of the Building Committee, and the Dania members who have constantly voted for remodeling and improvement in the Dania property. The comfortable, homey atmosphere in which the Dania members have found it so easy to relax is due largely to the Dania Ladies' Society. This organization has contributed greatly to Dania throughout the years, and deserves special mention here.

In October of 1892, Mrs. Anna Rasmussen rounded up twenty ladies and founded the Dania Ladies' Society. For seventy years this society has lent its feminine touch to Dania, and on many occasions has contributed rather large sums of money to help decorate the club rooms. The Dania Ladies' Society has not limited its efforts to Dania alone: it has been active in the Danish Old People's Home, the Danish Children's Home, "Red Barnet", the Oak Forest Home, the U.S.O., and the Red Cross.

The Dania Ladies' Society's work for the Red Cross has been most commend-

able. During both World Wars and the Korean War the members worked diligently for Clara Barton's organization, and many ladies received citations from the Red Cross for their outstanding work. Mrs. George P. Jensen is probably the most celebrated Red Cross worker in the Dania Ladies' Society: she was awarded the Little Cross by the King of Denmark in 1944, received a citation from the Red Cross in 1950, and was honored by that organization in 1961 for her twenty five continuous years of Red Cross service.

Dania's distaff society has many times been responsible for certain social functions and parties in Dania. Its latest contribution in this vein was the Centennial Costume Party held on March 24, 1962. Close to 250 people came dressed in costumes of bygone years, and after the dancing and singing, prizes were awarded for the most authentic and outstanding costume.

The Dania Ladies' Society meets monthly, the meetings being a mixture of business, chitchat, and an entertainment program. The present president is the capable Mrs. Virginia Terp, under whose leadership the Society is going on as strongly as it did seventy years ago.

In Dania's early, formative years the library was one of the main attractions for the members. Not only was there an interest in accumulating good books, but the books were omnivorously read by the members. The pendulum has since swung to the opposite extreme: Dania's library books are now used by the members as frequently as golf clubs are used by the Eskimos. This decline in the members' reading habits is, of course, partly attributable to the fact that the members during the past twenty years have preferred books written in English, and these can be obtained easily in the local libraries and bookstores.

Although there was little traffic in Danish books during the past many years, Dania was reluctant to give them away. At the November meeting in 1930, Dr. Max Henius requested permission to allow Dr. J. Christian Bay to go through the Dania library and make a list of the books which might be of interest to the Sohngaardsholm Archives in Aalborg. The list was prepared but the release of these volumes was not approved at the meeting on January 14, 1931.

Later in February, 1945, O. Lindeboe of the Library Committee met with H. Einar Mose, who recommended that 250 books be culled out of the Dania collection and sent to the Danish Seaman's Mission in New York. C. M. Christiansen, however, moved that this recommendation be tabled for further discussion. A year later, however, the Library Committee reported that 300 books had been sent to the mission, and that a letter of thanks had been received from Rev. A. T. Dorf.

The plight of Dania's library was illustrated most clearly when Knud Eriksen was appointed librarian in 1952. Eriksen could not find the key to the bookcases, and was duly informed that no key had been available for the last twenty years. To some bookish members this library situation was not only farcical but was downright embarrassing. Axel Andersen lamented the rather light and jovial attitude taken toward the Library Committee's report at the Dania meetings: the report, like a broken record, was the same at each meeting - "Nothing to report".

In 1953, feeling a bit sheepish about the library situation, Dania decided to

turn over a new leaf. At the June 12th meeting the position of "librarian" was re-defined: he was to supervise and make all book purchases; keep an accurate catalog of the books; and submit a detailed report and accounting at each January meeting.

This re-emphasis on the library didn't, however, change matters much. C. R. Hansen, the son of Dania's former steward, was elected librarian on January 27, 1954. He suggested that a high school girl be hired to make a card index of all the books, and \$25.00 was allotted for this purpose. On January 25, 1956, Axel Sorensen took over as bibliophic, and in March reported that the library was in an "awful mess". In July of '57, Sorensen announced that the basement had recently flooded and some books had been ruined. In January 1959, Niels E. Westergaard became the curator of the books, and at the June 12th meeting he reported that there was "nothing to report, except that Christ Brix had taken out a book!"

The Dania library will probably never regain the popularity and importance it held in the early years. Perhaps the only thing that could rejuvenate it now would be a shipment of Henry Miller's books.

Dania entered the Sixties with Harold Terp as president; Hjalmer Bertelsen, vice-president; James Millerd, secretary; and Ernest Jensen, treasurer. One of the first items on the agenda was a letter of appreciation to Andrew Karkow, who for fifteen consecutive years had faithfully served as Dania's secretary.

Another important matter of business, besides the annual election, was the adoption of the rule that all "jack pot" winnings must be spent in Dania. For the same reason that the United States created the "Buy America" Act, Dania put through its own "Buy Dania" law.

The plan to erect a "House of Denmark" was discussed at the January meeting, and a committee was formed which included representatives from the various Danish organizations in Chicago. This idea was temporarily tabled at the April meeting, but an affirmative vote went to Albert Clausen's idea of installing a new music system in the club at a cost of \$40.00 per month.

At the July meeting, the ever-generous Sam Sorensen offered his time and talents once more: this time he cleaned and painted the cocktail lounge. Einar Christiansen was given a rising vote of thanks for his many years' work as a trustee. In August, the newly arrived Consul General Bernhard Olsen was given an honorary card in the Society.

The special social events in Dania during 1960 were: an evening of "old fashioned dancing"; a luncheon in honor of the retiring manager and steward, Carl Schoop; and a farewell luncheon for Consul General and Mrs. Paul Scheel. The most important social function was, of course, the reception given the King and Queen of Denmark in Dania on October 10th. The red carpet was laid down, and King Frederik X and Queen Ingrid were welcomed to Dania by A. K. Mose. Colonel Reilly then offered Dania the Coat of Arms of Denmark which had been used at Mayor Daly's Hilton Hotel banquet in honor of the visiting Danish Majesties.

In January of '60, Hugo Seawall became Dania's steward and manager. The history of Dania's stewards is certainly worth elaborating on at this time.

Without question, the post in Dania which has caused the most disagreement and trouble has been that of the Steward. A steward, by definition, is one who manages the domestic concerns, supervises the servants, superintends the culinary affairs, collects the income, and manages all this in an administrative manner. To this should be added that he must please everyone and cater to the gastronomical whims of those he serves, performing at all times at a handsome profit margin. From the early days of Emil Renee, Niels Uhrenholdt and Ludwig Hoffenblad, up until the present, the Dania stewards have usually had a difficult time meeting the above mentioned requirements. The proverbial bone of contention has generally been the prices charged.

In 1919, J. George Jensen was reprimanded because he had gone directly to the members for an increase in prices. He consequently refused to renew his contract as steward, and a Peter Nielsen was given the job.

In May of 1924, Carl M. Hansen was simultaneously accepted as a member of Dania and elected as the new steward. No other steward has walked in and out of this position as often as Carl Hansen has, and no other steward has probably been as popular with the members as he was. When Hansen and his capable wife left in 1926, President Adolph Nielsen extended them Dania's appreciation for a job well done. Christ Larsen took over the job until 1933, when he tendered his resignation. A new contract form was then written up, whereby the steward had to pay the license fee, had to buy the previous steward's kitchen utensils and table service at a fair price, had to be able to serve at least two hundred fifty people, and had to carry workmen's compensation insurance on his help.

When J. Christ Jorgensen was Dania's president in 1933-35, Carl Hansen came back as steward. It shortly thereafter became known to Dania's members that Hansen, serving excellent cuisine at less than cost, had incurred some debts which he was trying to gradually pay off. In January of 1937, a new, more favorable contract was entered into with Hansen.

At a meeting in July of 1940, it was voted to have salaried stewards, and in August, Otto Carlsen was elected manager at a salary of \$175.00/month. For some reason this arrangement never came to pass, and Carl Hansen became the steward again until he resigned in 1941. Carl M. Nielsen from St. Louis was then engaged, but strong complaints about his service forced him to terminate his contract prematurely. A new steward, V. Shoemand, couldn't satisfy the members either, and Carl Hansen, acting much like a relief pitcher in baseball, came in again to serve until 1943 when he resigned.

Jens Holmen took over in August of '43 and resigned in October of '45. Viggo Rasmussen held the manager's job from 1945 to 1948, and was paid a monthly salary of two hundred fifty dollars, plus twenty per cent of the kitchen and bar profits. At the January meeting in 1948, the steward resigned after the members castigated him for showing no profit on sixty thousand dollars of business volume.

On March 10, 1948, Carl Adrian was hired as the new manager and steward. Adrian had been in the restaurant business before and knew how to run Dania's setup. He showed a five hundred dollar profit in his first month of operations. In January of '50, Adrian asked for a raise in salary, but denied this he resigned. (Adrian became a Dania member in 1953.)

Paul Romer followed in Adrian's footsteps, and in more ways than one, for he also showed a commendable profit in the first month of his stewardship. Romer resigned in June of '58, and Carl Schoop was hired on August 8th for a three month trial. He did well and became popular with the members, but on January 27, 1960, the House Committee appointed the present manager, Hugo Seawall, with whom everyone seems very pleased. Dania has changed stewards as often as some of our Chicago baseball teams are forced to change pitchers in a single game! Perhaps the present manager, Hugo Seawall, will be able to go a full nine innings.

Dania has always been fortunate in having on its membership list, members of the legal profession. These counselors-at-law have aided Dania on many occasions when legal advice and action were necessary. Two such lawyers were Peter B. Nelson and Gunnar Jensenius.

The late Peter B. Nelson, who was the mayor of Racine, Wisconsin, from 1903 to 1907, came to Chicago in the early 1900's and established his own law firm, Nelson & McFall, which later became Nelson, Boodell & Will. He founded the Chicago Danish Club, whose president he was until his death. He was the attorney for the Royal Danish Consulate General in Chicago, and was made a Knight Commander of Dannebrog. His legal practice took most of his time, and although a Dania member, outside of giving legal advice to the Society when it was needed, he never took too active a part in the various club activities. On several occasions, Peter B. Nelson did serve as toastmaster and speechmaker. A tall, jovial man, Nelson was respected by his fellow Dania members who paid tribute to him at his passing on October 4, 1960, at the age of 91.

For many years Dania's official barrister has been Gunnar Jensenius. Jutland-born Jensenius became a Dania member on March 14, 1934, and from that time his rise in the Danish organizations in Chicago was little short of meteoric.

Jensenius's activity in Dania began with his election, in 1934, as delegate to the Danish National Committee. In 1935, when Westergaard was briefly sacked for misconduct, Jensenius became secretary. That same year he served on a masquerade committee, and undoubtedly this good-looking man, dressed in a white suit and red tie, enjoyed this role much more than when, as an attorney, he had to try to explain the Federal Violation of Liquor Laws to the Dania steward.

At the January election in 1938, Jensenius acted as teller, and regarding Dania's elections, Jensenius has served as the election chairman more than ten times since 1942. Since 1939, he has served on Dania's Law Committee many times, and in this capacity has guided the Society in its bylaw changes, its business contracts with the stewards, and with the questions of equity membership. In May '58, Jensenius informed the members that he, as legal counsel, and Niels Arne Holmen, as Dania's president, were Dania's official spokesmen while Dania's status as a dispenser of liquor was in question.

Gunnar Jensenius's interests include much more than just Dania. He succeeded Peter B. Nelson as president of the Chicago Danish Club. He was associated with the Danish Brotherhood in America, and was instrumental in having this organization's convention held in Dania in September of '39. He has been very active at the Danish

Old People's Home, and has held offices there since 1941. It came as no surprise to any one that Jensenius was made a Knight of Dannebrog in 1960, and that in 1961 he was made Aalborg's "Mayor for One Day" at the Rebild Festival.

John M. Petersen was elected president of Dania at the General Assembly on January 25, 1961. Christ Brix was made vice-president, and James Millerd and Ernest Jensen continued as secretary and treasurer, respectively. It was announced at this meeting that the Danish Prime Minister, Viggo Kampmann, would speak in Dania on February 15th.

Much of the year, 1961, was spent in planning the forthcoming Centennial Year in 1962. Christ Brix, a twenty year member of Dania, moved that Dania make a trip by air to Denmark in '62. A committee, with Marius Larsen as chairman, was delegated to investigate the possibilities of a charter flight, and later in the year was requested to enter into a contract for the flight. Members who planned to make the trip were then asked to deposit \$100.00 for their tickets.

In April, '61, Dania gave a luncheon in honor of the new American Ambassador to Denmark, William McCormick Blair, Jr., and on May 20th a party was thrown for John Bang, who shortly thereafter was made a Knight of Dannebrog.

The General Assembly meeting on January 27, 1962, saw the Dania members reluctant to change horses in the middle of the stream. To insure the success of the Society's Centennial Year all the officers were re-elected: John M. Petersen, president; Christ Brix, vice-president; James Millerd, secretary, and Ernest Jensen, treasurer.

The capable and energetic vice-president, Christ Brix, was made chairman of the Entertainment Committee. This alone virtually guaranteed that Dania's 100th year would be a lively, eventful, and extra-special one.

On January 27th, the centennial festivities began auspiciously with a high-flying Centennial Kick-Off Dinner Dance. Dania never looked more attractive, and the cocktails and dinner were superexcellent. It was unquestionably a wonderful way for Dania's members and friends to start off the centennial jubilee.

The Centennial Costume Party was next on the social agenda. This affair was sponsored by the Dania Ladies' Society and has been mentioned earlier. On April 7th a beau ideal Parisian Night was given and was a well planned affair.

Hans Kirkegaard was the chairman and Christ Brix the toastmaster of a highly successful Scandinavian Luncheon which was held on May 27th. The Norske Klub and the Chicago Swedish Club were invited, and over 150 people enjoyed the interesting program which featured speeches by each of the three Scandinavian Consul Generals in Chicago. The theme of these addresses was the necessity for closer co-operation and a better relationship between the Scandinavian organizations in Chicago. After each speech, the national anthem of the speaker's country was sung in the vernacular tongue. A Chicago TV station crew was present and video-taped the proceedings; film clips were shown the same evening on a TV newscast. This Scandinavian Luncheon was not only a tribute to the peoples of the Scandinavian countries

but also to the Dania Society of Chicago.

Close to 100 members of Dania left for Denmark on June 21st. These members were slated to be received by His Majesty, King Frederik IX, and by the American Ambassador to Denmark, William McCormick Blair, Jr. The Dania contingent was also going to represent the Society at several important functions in Denmark, one being the 50th anniversary celebration at Rebild National Park on July 4th.

The ambitious entertainment plans for this fall call for a "Mexican Night" on September 22nd, and then on November 24th, the long awaited 100th Anniversary Banquet. This will undoubtedly be one of the grandest, most gala celebrations that Dania has ever had. With the enthusiasm and leadership already evidenced in Dania so far this year, the Centennial Banquet can't miss!

People can be transplanted from one country to another, take root, and absorb invigorating nourishment from a new soil. Danish immigrants have done that more readily than any other foreign groups. There are, nevertheless, certain beliefs and characteristics stemming from their old culture which cannot easily be changed or integrated into the American way of life. A longing for one's native land and for one's mother tongue continues to exist, sometimes for as long as a lifetime. Immigrants are often lonely people, but they do feel at home in a club or social society within their ethnic group. Dania has been such a home to thousands of Danes living in Chicago during the past one hundred years. By being good sons and daughters of their mother country, Denmark, they became good sons and daughters of America, their adopted country of liberty. Many have learned the truth of the Latin saying: *Ubi libertas, ibi patria* - "Where liberty dwells, there is my country".

In its one hundred years of existence, -from Abraham Lincoln to John F. Kennedy, Dania has witnessed tremendous social, economic and political changes on the American scene. Chicago itself has been transformed from a frontier town into one of the world's most dynamic cities. The contagious "I Will" spirit of Chicago has constantly rubbed off on Dania, and Dania's vitality and ability to exist for a century is in part due to its being located in the galvanic city of Chicago.

What the future holds for Dania is, of course, unknown. It is difficult for an ethnic minority group to survive indefinitely. The present immigration laws prevent any sizable inflow of immigrants into the United States, thereby depriving a society such as Dania of the "new blood" which is so necessary for its perpetuation. Some of the present day immigrants who do come are Americanized so rapidly that they unfortunately feel no desire to associate with an organization which is "foreign", and which might tend to identify them with their own native land.

The foregoing does not, however, mean that we should summon a deathwatch for Dania. For one hundred years Dania has been the worthy standard bearer of Danish culture in Chicago, and this love and admiration for Denmark can still be the common bond in which rests Dania's strength for the future. Another source of strength which Dania possesses is the fellowship and comradeship which exists among the members. This may eventually, as more second and third generation Danes join Dania, create a stronger feeling of allegiance toward Dania than the bond of being Danish or of Danish descent.

*Dania has come through its first
hundred years with flying colors.
Inspired by its past, and mindful
of its rich heritage and culture,
Dania can and will meet the chal-
lenge of the next hundred years.*



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